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beats Mick Mills of
Ipswich to the ball.

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THE DRAW

ARSENAL v LIVERPOOL at Hillsborough, Sheffield

WEST HAM v EVERTON at Villa Park, Birmingham

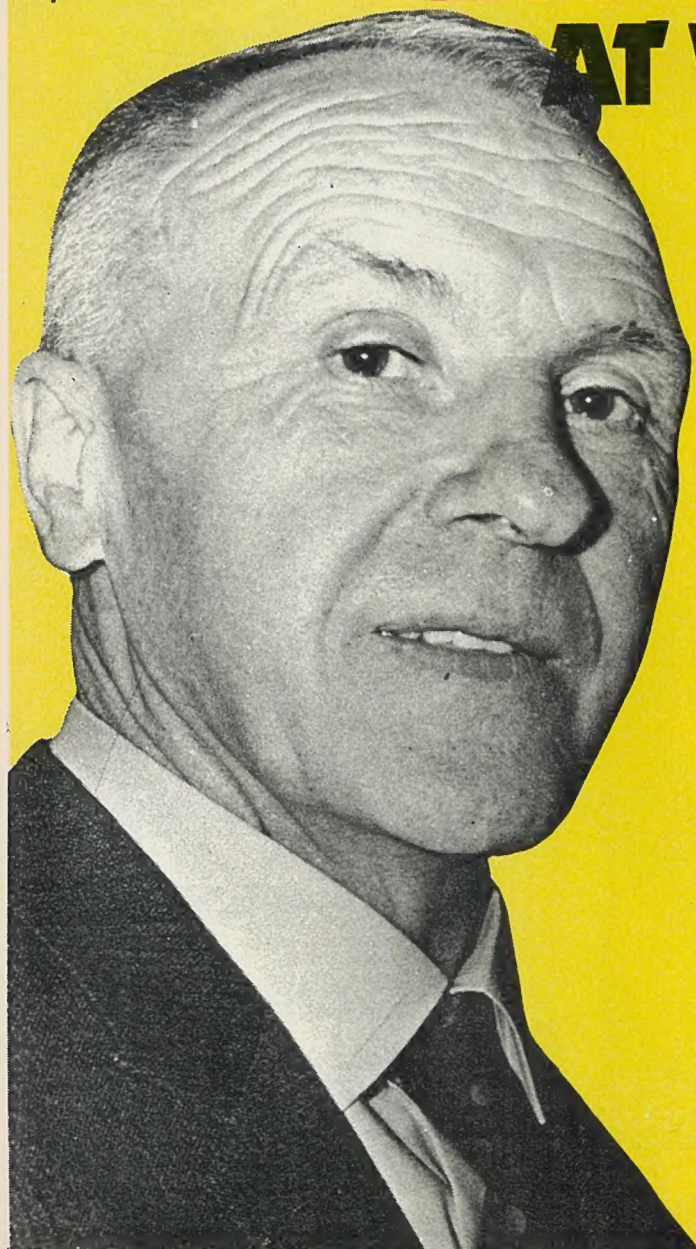
THE ODDS: Evens Liverpool, 3-1 Arsenal, 4-1 Everton, 13-2 West Ham; 6-4 All-Mersey Final, 5-1 All-London Final.

BILL Shankly has forgotten more about winning Cup-ties than most people know. It would take too much space to list all his Cup successes during his Anfield career. But the legendary Scot admits choosing the winners from Saturday's games is difficult because of "the most fascinating Semi-Final draw in years". "Take the Everton-West Ham match," says Bill. "The Londoners must be regarded by Everton as a First Division side, not under-rated and expected to fight every inch of the way."

"Against West Ham is the fact they have a very heavy League programme to fulfil, the sort that can make some teams 'blow up' under the pressure. But the burden of additional games will not make itself felt before the Semi-Final, if at all, and at Upton Park there is

Former Liverpool manager Bill Shankly assesses the F.A. Cup Semi-Finals and decides it's

LIVERPOOL v EVERTON AT WEMBLEY



the inspiration of players such as Trevor Brooking and Billy Bonds to guide the team through difficult times.

"With Everton, it's a case of a side that has done well in Cup matches. I saw them deal convincingly with Wrexham, and was impressed with the way they beat Ipswich, who are a very good team. Everton came through with Bob Latchford back in the line-up, alongside Mick Lyons, John Gidman, Andy King, Brian Kidd and Joe McBride, and these men will make it difficult for West Ham.

"In the League, Everton have been struggling, so getting through to Wembley would help them to redeem themselves for a disappointing season so far.

"Yet West Ham can feel, as a

up with players who have been bought, like Alan Sunderland and Brian Talbot.

"This is a side that will not be underestimated by Liverpool, and if anything can be said about how this Semi-Final will be played, it is that both teams will be very cautious in the early stages — there will be a lot of probing for openings and searching for any possible weak spots.

"In 1971, Arsenal beat Liverpool in the Cup Final when we were starting to build up our winning teams of the 70's, and if there is any side equipped to beat Liverpool this year, it is Arsenal.

"But the big word is 'if' and quite honestly, I can't see any team beating Liverpool, because their style and their training methods are better than those adopted by anybody else.

"In the Liverpool side, everybody runs for everybody else, to an extent that isn't practised in other

teams. If there were such a thing as socialism in football, in the way in which effort and rewards were shared, then it would exist in the present side at Anfield."

From 1980, back to 1965, when the Anfield club won the F.A. Cup for the first time in their history, may seem like a long success story for many fans who are teenagers at the present time. But even the fathers of these young Kopites may be surprised to learn that the style of football which has characterised Liverpool for so long began as an idea in the mind of Bill Shankly as long ago as the late 1930's.

"I was in the Preston North End side that beat Huddersfield to win the F.A. Cup in the 1938 Final," recalls Bill.

"Only a year earlier, we had also reached Wembley, losing in that Final to Sunderland. We had a fine team that went in for a simple, short-passing game that not only paid dividends in Cup competitions, but also enabled us to finish third in the First Division in 1938, just behind Arsenal and Wolves.

"And it was in those pre-War days that I got the thought in my head that Preston's type of play was something that could be worked upon, even developed, to bring future success.

"This was the technique that I introduced at Anfield, together with training methods used at Preston, and Liverpool eventually went on to their initial Wembley win, over Leeds, in the mid-60's.

"For me, that Liverpool team of 1965, needed only Ray Clemence in goal to make it the greatest-ever — and I mean no disrespect to Tommy Lawrence, who did so well for us.

"And coming right up to the present, Ray Clemence will be one of the Liverpool players out to frustrate Arsenal's capable attack and help the club to another Final. Liverpool versus Everton at Wembley — it sounds great for Merseyside."

side challenging for promotion, that the lure of Wembley and the possibility of finishing in the top three in Division Two is a tremendous 'double' to aim at.

"So all these facts add up, creating a situation in which both teams will be committed 100 per cent to winning — and this total involvement could lead to a draw between them at the first attempt.

"This is the Semi-Final which may need more than one game to settle the issue, and when a definite result is achieved it could be by a single goal, with Everton the side to get it."

Confrontation

To Shankly, the possible closeness of the result in the Everton-West Ham confrontation is only matched by the uncertainty of what he believes will be a gigantic clash between League Champions Liverpool and F.A. Cup holders Arsenal.

And the ex-Liverpool supremo says: "What helps to make this game almost unpredictable lies in the fact that nobody outside of Anfield knows what the Liverpool approach will be.

"The state of the pitch, the tactics to be used, the mood of the players — all these factors come into the preparation for a match, and it is the thoroughness of these preparations that regularly bring success to Liverpool.

"But what won't be forgotten by Liverpool is the soundness of the present Arsenal squad, the way that players are brought through the ranks at Highbury, and developed into the general scheme of things.

"Liam Brady, Sammy Nelson, Graham Rix and Frank Stapleton are some of the men who have learned their trade with Arsenal to become first team material, linking

OF the four teams left in the Semi-Finals, Everton are the only ones relying on the Cup for success this season. Liverpool are Champions-elect; Arsenal are in the last four of the Cup-Winners' Cup; while West Ham quite rightly place promotion to Division One on the top of their priority list.

There was a sigh of relief in the Everton dressing-room when the draw was made. It was no slight against West Ham, but even the most fervent Hammers fan would agree that Arsenal and Liverpool are probably the hardest clubs to beat in Cup competitions.

Everton skipper Mike Lyons says: "The tie must be regarded as a good draw for both ourselves and West Ham because we are the two underdogs left in the competition."

"Gordon Lee said after we'd beaten Ipswich in the Quarter-Finals that he would like Liverpool, but I think he was just flushed with success!

"Let's be honest. Liverpool are the hardest team of them all to

beat. I certainly didn't want to meet them at this stage. If we can make it to Wembley, we're almost guaranteed a place in the Cup-Winners' Cup because Liverpool, as Champions, will be in the European Cup.

"I prefer not to look to the Final. We've got to get the West Ham game out of the way first."

Lyons realises The Hammers are capable of football far above their status.

"They're a First Division side playing in the wrong Division. I don't think this will be for much longer, though. There is no difference between Divisions in a Cup game — it's a one-off affair."

Everton have had the luck of the draw in the competition this season, having enjoyed home advantage all the way through to the Semi-Finals.

Their form in the League has been indifferent, to say the least.

'West Ham are in the wrong Division'
— MIKE LYONS



Injuries and a change of personnel only partly explain why the Blues have hovered dangerously close to the relegation zone.

"I don't know why we've struggled in the League, yet have done so well in the Cup," continues Lyons. "We seem to lift ourselves for these matches and, of course, having the Everton crowd behind us all the time has helped."

"I've been with the club for ten years and I've never won a thing. I hope my luck is about to change."

"In no way are we underestimating West Ham. They have so many good players... players who can produce match-winning performances. There aren't many better midfielders than Trevor Brooking. Alan Devonshire, David Cross, Stuart Pearson — all experienced and they will be equally confident of reaching the Final."

It's ironic that West Ham travel to Villa Park for the Semi-Final, the home of Aston Villa, the club they so dramatically knocked out of the Sixth Round with that late Ray Stewart penalty.

An omen, perhaps? Or will Everton, out of the limelight for so long, be back on the glory trail again?

THE loyalties of the Martin family watching Saturday's F.A. Cup Semi-Final between Everton and West Ham will be stretched to the limit.

They all come from Liverpool. And, as regular patrons at Goodison Park, have a natural leaning towards Everton.

But one member of the family, 21-year-old Alvin, left home some years ago to try his luck with West Ham.

He will be the centre-half in the West Ham team battling for a place in the Final. So you can see why the family have a dilemma.

"I suppose some of them won't know who to cheer for. But they won't get any tickets off me unless they promise to turn up at Villa Park wearing Hammers claret-and-blue colours," grins Alvin — who has emerged as one of the best young central-defenders in the country.

Alvin has absolutely no doubts who his mother and father will be rooting for. They are now West Ham fans through and through.

are a great club and I'll always be grateful to them for giving me my big chance."

West Ham fans with long memories say they have not had a really commanding centre-half since Ken Brown — now assistant boss at Norwich City — quit the club 14 years ago.

It's generally accepted that Martin is the best since Brown — and there cannot be higher praise.

English football is not too well off for centre-halves and the subject of who is likely to be equipped to take over from Dave Watson in the senior side is often raised.

If Alvin Martin continues his present rate of progress don't be surprised if he steps into the spot when the time comes for Watson to retire.

Things have gone better than anyone could have dreamed of for West Ham this season.

Martin has played a big part in their success. He is determined to cap it all with an F.A. Cup Final appearance at Wembley next month.

Alvin's family don't know who to cheer for!

"I'm always pleased to see them when they come down — especially as my dad gives me a hand with the work I'm doing on the new house I've bought in Hornchurch," says Alvin.

If Everton had not been such a wealthy club Alvin could well have been playing FOR them, instead of against them, on Saturday.

He was with the Goodison club as a schoolboy and dreamed of making a professional career with them.

But, with money no object, they already had their full quota of apprentices and were not allowed to sign anyone else. So they were unable to offer Alvin terms.

"It broke my heart when that happened and my whole world collapsed when Everton told me I had to go elsewhere," recalls Alvin.

"But a schoolteacher stepped in and offered fresh hope by recommending me to West Ham."

"I came down to Upton Park on two weeks trial and at the end of it Ron Greenwood, the manager at the time, offered to sign me as an apprentice."

"I jumped at the chance of signing — and it turned out to be the best move I ever made. West Ham



I MUST admit that having to play Liverpool in the Semi-Final was not the draw we really wanted, but having said that none of the lads is too disappointed at having to meet them at this stage. It would certainly have made a good Final, but now we know we can just go out there and enjoy ourselves.

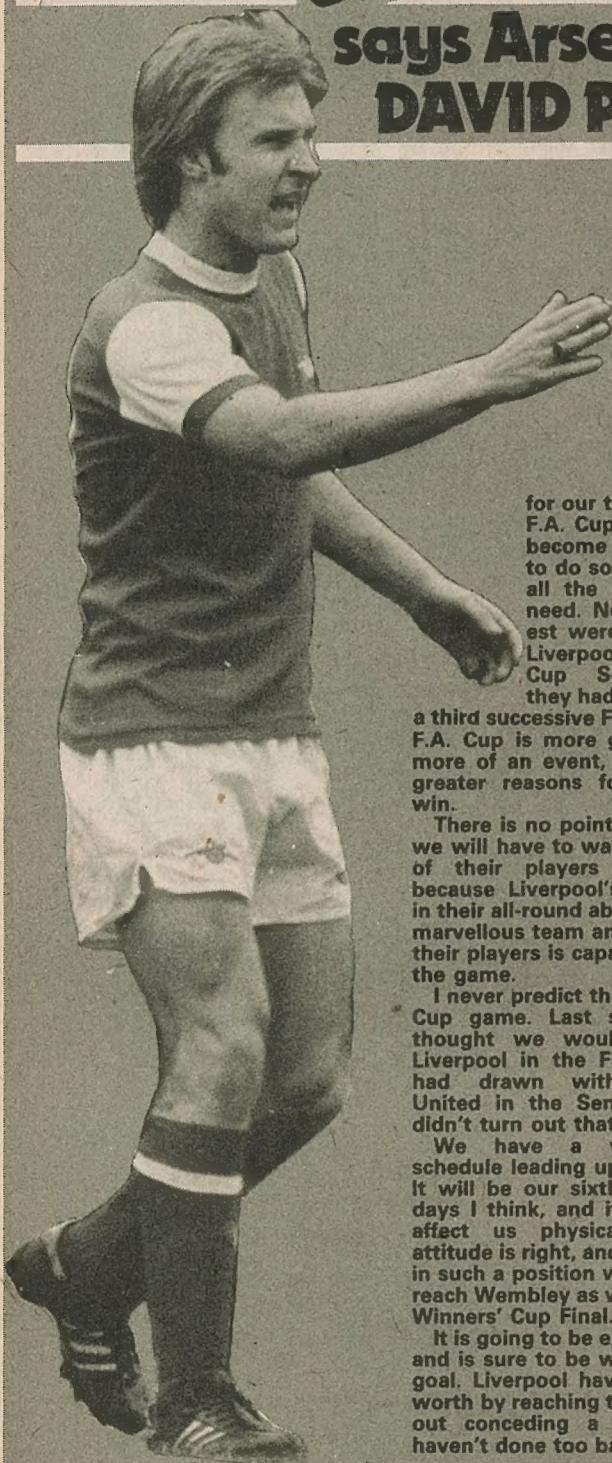
We are fairly confident that we can get to Wembley for our third successive Cup Final, but it will be

extremely tight. Obviously we are not going to slaughter them, but you have to have a certain amount of confidence against Liverpool or you stand no chance.

The onus is on the Champions because they are going for the 'double' and they are everybody's favourites to win this game, so perhaps they will feel the pressure of the occasion more.

The very fact that we are going

'We didn't want LIVERPOOL'
says Arsenal's
DAVID PRICE



for our third successive F.A. Cup Final and will become the first team to do so at Wembley is all the motivation we need. Nottingham Forest were lifted against Liverpool in the League Cup Semi, because they had the promise of a third successive Final, and as the F.A. Cup is more glamorous and more of an event, we have even greater reasons for wanting to win.

There is no point in saying that we will have to watch out for any of their players in particular, because Liverpool's strength lies in their all-round ability. They are a marvellous team and every one of their players is capable of winning the game.

I never predict the outcome of a Cup game. Last season we all thought we would be playing Liverpool in the Final after they had drawn with Manchester United in the Semi-Final, but it didn't turn out that way.

We have a very draining schedule leading up to this game. It will be our sixth game in ten days I think, and it will probably affect us physically. But our attitude is right, and it is nice to be in such a position where we could reach Wembley as well as the Cup-Winners' Cup Final.

It is going to be extremely close, and is sure to be won by the odd goal. Liverpool have proved their worth by reaching this stage without conceding a goal, but we haven't done too badly ourselves.

THE F.A. Cup Semi-Final between Arsenal and Liverpool is so close that for every good reason why The Gunners should win... there is an equally good one why the Merseysiders will triumph. Both sides are proven Cup specialists, with sound defences and match-winners up-front. Fans could talk for hours on the tie and, at the end of the day, still beg to differ.

We asked Liverpool full-back ALAN KENNEDY to give his views on three key points relating to Saturday's clash.

'TERRY McDERMOTT could be our match-winner'



DEFENCE

"Both are very strong. For example, up to the last week in March, Arsenal had conceded less away goals than any other side in Division One — and at home, only Manchester United and Liverpool had less scored against them. Arsenal have Pat Rice, Dave O'Leary, Willie Young and Sammy Nelson at the back, and this is a good blend.

"I've been particularly impressed with O'Leary and Nelson in previous matches against Arsenal, and big Willie Young isn't going to make it easy for Kenny Dalglish and David Johnson to reach any high balls in the goal-mouth.

"Behind them is Pat Jennings, a great goalkeeper who boosts the confidence of his defenders, and there won't be anything wrong with the morale of the Arsenal back-four. But confidence is one of Liverpool's assets — after all, who better to generate it than Ray Clemence?

MIDFIELD

"As both sides include midfielders who provide goals as well as score them, it is obviously going to be crucial as to who gains the upper hand here. Liam Brady is the man who immediately springs to mind with his ability to read the game and his pin-point passing.

"Brady, along with David Price, Brian Talbot and Graham Rix will make it quite a job for us to wrest control away from them.

"Fortunately, we'll have Jimmy Case, Terry McDermott, Graeme Souness and Ray Kennedy up

against them, to try to hold them and also back up our front runners, so there will be problems for both teams in this vital department. In Terry McDermott we have the man whose form this season could give us the edge and even be our match-winner.

ATTACK

"Their defence will be geared to cutting down shooting space and chances to Kenny Dalglish and David Johnson.

"But the two men up-front are only part of our attack — O'Leary and Co. must look out for our midfield players coming through into shooting positions.

"And if David Fairclough is brought in, he is the very man who can make nonsense of organised defences by his ability to run at them head-on.

"Of course, we aren't expecting the traffic to be one-way, Arsenal will also be out to produce a goal or two in this Semi-Final with their bursts from midfield.

"Then there is the double menace of Frank Stapleton and Alan Sunderland — Alan is one of the best finishers in the game."

Kennedy reckons one goal will decide the game. But it wouldn't surprise most people if the two teams had to replay next week to decide who reaches Wembley for the 1980 Final.

Famous Scottish comedian **ANDY CAMERON** looks at the Scottish Cup Semi-Finals and predicts . . .

'No joking - an Old Firm Final'



ANDY CAMERON, one of Scotland's best-known comedians alongside Billy Connolly, admits to being football crazy and, of course, had a number one hit two years ago with 'We're On The March With Ally's Army'.

The wise-cracking jokester also admits to being totally unbiased . . . he doesn't mind who wins on a Saturday so long as they play in blue and white, their home ground is Ibrox Stadium, their manager is John Grieg and their captain is Derek Johnstone. See what we mean about being unbiased?

Andy has some interesting views on the forthcoming Cup Semi-Final battles . . .

"When SHOOT first asked me to do this interview I was delighted. Let's face it they had the choice of thousands of comedians . . . I watch them trying to play football most Saturdays.

"Let's be serious, though. Saturday's games could be tight - I can hear the squeaking already - and some daft things do happen in this Cup. Celtic fans will no doubt rush to remind me of a certain January 28 back in 1967 when some wee team from Berwick knocked out the famous Glasgow Rangers in the opening round.

'Magic'

"Big Jock Wallace was in goal for Berwick that day and I firmly believe that some of the lads at Ibrox must have known he would be their gaffer one day. Certainly they didn't try to get in his bad books that afternoon!

"That result illustrates that anything can happen in the Cup. I love the magic of the Cup, the sudden-death atmosphere of the tournament and I'll definitely be at Parkhead on Saturday to see the good old Teddy Bears - 'Gers, if you prefer - maul this Aberdeen side.

"They've worked us over more than a few times this season and it's going to be revenge time on Saturday. I wouldn't mind a repeat of the same fixture at the same ground ten years ago.

"I was working as a delivery man with a sweets firm - you see, I've always been a comedian - at the time and I always tried to get time off to go and support the lads.

"I was at Parkhead that afternoon and it was the first time I had

ever been in the Celtic 'end' of the ground. Obviously, the thought of being hung, drawn and quartered had kept me from straying into that part of Parkhead during past Old Firm games.

"But that day was really weird. It was strange without Celtic coming out of the tunnel. It was a bit unreal, honestly. There was no-one to jeer at!

"It'll be the same on Saturday, of course. Rangers and Aberdeen at Parkhead. Yes, definitely a bit strange.

"Like I said, I wouldn't mind an action replay of ten years ago because Rangers walked that one 6-1, but I don't really want to remember the Cup Final that year. They got through to play Celtic . . . and lost 4-0. What a let-down that was!

"Funnily enough, I believe that will be the pairing this season, too. Rangers and Celtic at Hampden in the Cup Final next month, but this time I believe the 4-0 scoreline will be reversed."

Cameron has some kind words for the Aberdeen manager.

"Alex Ferguson - he can't be all bad because he used to play for the 'Gers - is The Dons boss, of course, and his attitude shows through the team.

"Fergie wasn't the prettiest footballer to watch. In fact, we used to say if you took off his elbows he would lose all his natural ability and have to quit the game! But he was determined and ambitious and that has rubbed off on to his players at Pittodrie."

Cameron also has some 'advice' for 'Big Bomber' Colin Jackson.

"Colin's got so much white in his hair at the moment that I have suggested he should sign for St. Mirren some time in the future. The black-and-white stripes on their shirts would match his head perfectly!

"I'm really looking forward to the game and I believe Rangers can just shade it. One thing is certain . . . it's going to be a sizzler.

"While Rangers and Aberdeen are getting stuck into one another at Parkhead, Celtic and Hibernation, sorry, Hibernian, will be doing likewise at Hampden.

"The Edinburgh men started this season in a storm of mediocrity, beginning badly and fading away. However, they have still got to the Semi-Final of the Cup, so they can't be all bad.

"And, by the way, don't believe these rumours that tell you Lord Lucan is hiding in the Hibs forward line each week. I took a look and

couldn't see him. Mind you, I couldn't see a Hibs forward line, either!

"Hibs, though, made it really tough for Rangers in the Cup Final last season. It took the Teddy Bears three games and a couple of bouts of extra-time before they beat the Edinburgh men and if they strike that sort of form against Celtic they could make it tough.

"But I can't see Celtic failing to get into the Final. I don't want to sound a traitor, but I've got to say I admire Celtic.

"I watched them at Parkhead last season when they won the Premier Championship. They were losing 1-0 to Rangers when they had Johnny Doyle ordered off in the second-half and they could have fallen to pieces.

'Interesting'

"They didn't though. They rolled up their sleeves and got stuck in and eventually won 4-2. When all the kidding and joking is said and done, that is still a great performance.

"A certain George Best - or should that be George Pest? - will be lining up for Hibs and that should be interesting, but I still think Celtic will have booked their passage back to Hampden at the end of the afternoon.

"So, there you are . . . Rangers and Celtic to triumph in the Semis on Saturday and lock horns next month in the Final.

"One thing I would like to say is that I wish they would play both Semi-Final ties away from Hampden and keep the national stadium for the spectacle of the Final.

"Wembley might lose some of its appeal if one of the Semi-Final ties was played there. It's just a little thing that has always niggled me.

"Enjoy your football and, don't forget, it doesn't matter who wins the League or the Cup . . . Rangers are always the best team in the world. I'm a season ticket holder, so I should know. Cheers!"



Jackie McNamara (left) saves the day for Hibs against Celtic with a sliding tackle.

WE'VE played Aberdeen so many times this season that I know their players better than I know my wife!

Honestly, we're all on first name terms by now. I'll have to send Christmas cards to their entire first team pool at the end of the year!

No one knows better than me just how good this current Aberdeen side is and things will undoubtedly be hectic in our Semi-Final at Parkhead on Saturday (April 12th). The law of averages says we must win after all the defeats we have suffered at their hands this term, but we won't be leaving anything to chance.

It's going to be extremely difficult. They have some truly gifted individual players and they knit well together.

credit to The Dons for capitalising on those openings.

And when we went down to a last minute goal by Derek Hamilton in the League at Pittodrie we could so easily have won after leading 2-1 for a lengthy spell.

We are certainly not afraid of Aberdeen. We are the Scottish Cup holders and I'm confident that by the time the smoke clears over Parkhead on Saturday we will be in a position to defend that trophy in the Final.

A year before I joined Rangers from my school in Dundee I saw them in a Scottish Cup Semi-Final match against Aberdeen at Parkhead and I would like to think it is an omen for what is going to happen this time.

Rangers won 6-1 and I was

is fair in love and war, as they say.

One Semi-Final I really enjoyed playing in came against Dundee United three years ago. I like playing against my home town team and I am always guaranteed a tough 90 minutes against Paul Hegarty, who is without doubt an extremely gifted defender.

Deadlock

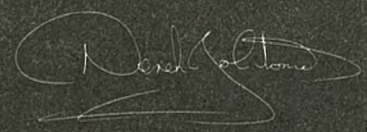
On that occasion we won 2-0 after a goalless first-half and I scored the goal that broke the deadlock — a header from a right wing cross that hit the post before flashing past Hamish McAlpine.

I've been fairly fortunate in my Cup games against the Tannadice

men in the past and even this season I netted the only goal of our Third Round match at Ibrox.

It will never win any 'Goal of the Year' awards, but it was absolutely crucial at the time, just minutes before the whistle to end the game and take it to a replay at Tannadice.

Davie Cooper and Bobby Russell combined to set up the opportunity and when the low cross came over I swept in at the far post to whip it into the net. I hope I get some more like that on Saturday.




'We'll master The Dons'

Alex McLeish, for me, is the Find of the Season. He's just a youngster, but he shows great control and authority and commands respect. He gets through an awful lot of work in their midfield and he's also very useful as a central defender where, in fact, he started his career.

Steve Archibald is always dangerous. You expect him to try to pinch a goal or two and we'll have to make sure he doesn't have any space on Saturday.

Unstoppable

Another Aberdeen player who rarely gets the credit he deserves is left-winger Ian Scanlon. When he is in the mood he can be virtually unstoppable. He might be accused of blowing hot and cold, but, nevertheless, he is a real threat when he is playing well.

He stretches defences and that gives other players the opportunity to come through into unguarded positions. That's where Gordon Strachan excels with his marvellous use of the long ball.

Gordon always seems to play well against us and I hope we put a stop to that on Saturday!

I've got to take Rangers to win this one. We have learned so much in our games against Aberdeen this season and I know I will be accused of sour grapes, but we have been nowhere near as bad as the statistics seem to prove when we have played them.

For instance, we lost 2-0 to them in a League Cup-tie at Ibrox, but we had to take chances in that game and open up because we were trailing from the first-leg. All

Aberdeen's Alex McLeish will prove a formidable obstacle for Rangers in the Semi-Final at Parkhead.

highly impressed with the Ibrox side although, of course, I had no way of knowing at the time that I was soon to be a Rangers player myself.

Willie Johnston was brilliant that afternoon if my memory serves me correctly and he scored a hat-trick. I watched the match on television at home with my brothers and we were all mesmerised by wee Willie that day. So, too, were the Dons defence.

Colin Stein also played and ran the Pittodrie defence into the ground with his incredible energy and stamina. Little did I think at the time that I would be very impressed with these two individuals only three seasons later when Rangers won the European Cup-Winners' Cup with a certain Derek Johnstone playing at centre-half in our 3-2 triumph over Moscow Dynamo in Barcelona. Willie scored two that evening with Colin getting the other.

Our Scottish Cup Semi-Final last season was a lengthy one against Partick Thistle. The first game ended 0-0 and the replay was heading for the same scoreline when yours truly popped up to beat Alan Rough for the only goal of the game. Alan and I are mates off the pitch, but he knows that all



TARTAN TALK FROM
CELTIC'S DANNY
McGRAIN NEXT WEEK



'Medal before a move'

STEVE ARCHIBALD
(Aberdeen)

I find it hard to believe everything I read in the Press. Saturday's encounter against Rangers at Parkhead could be my last as an Aberdeen player.

I've read in the newspapers that the club might be prepared to sell me to an English team once our interest in the tournament comes to a halt.

A move across the border is an intriguing thought, but if I am going to go South I wouldn't mind doing so with a Cup winners' medal in my pocket for my efforts.

So far I have picked up two runners-up medals, but I'm not interested in being second best. I want to be known as a winner and I'm out to make sure Rangers don't block my path on this occasion.

They beat us in the League Cup Final last season with a goal in the dying seconds by Colin Jackson and that memory still haunts me. I want to wipe it out and a good performance and a victory on Saturday will go a long way to doing just that.

I've knocked in a couple of goals against Rangers this season and I hope the run continues at Parkhead. People keep reminding me that the last time The Dons played Rangers in a Scottish Cup Semi-Final at Parkhead was ten years ago and the Ibrox men won 6-1. That won't happen this time... unless we get a scoreline like that. There's no way Rangers can even think of a repeat!



'Celtic never accept defeat'

GEORGE BEST (Hibernian)

CELTIC impressed me when we played against them in the Premier Division at Easter Road earlier this season.

They have a lot of fight and spirit in their play and I thought they were worthy Champions of Scotland with their refusal to accept defeat that day.

I put us ahead on that occasion after an Ally MacLeod penalty-kick had hit their crossbar and been cleared earlier in the game. I enjoyed scoring that goal and I just hope I can get at least another one like it at Hampden.

In that League game I picked up the ball, moved into the penalty-area, jinked a little and fired in a right foot shot which beat Peter Latchford at his near post. It wasn't a rehearsed move... it was simply instinct. I thought a goal was 'on' and I followed my senses.

Funnily enough, after that game our 'keeper Jim McArthur told me that he thought it wasn't a bad effort from my weak foot. I took this as a compliment to my left foot... for, you see, I am naturally right-footed.

That means Jim had thought my left was my strongest so it only goes to show that all the practice that I have undergone in the past has paid off.

I am determined to succeed at Hampden against Celtic because the Hibs fans haven't had an awful lot to cheer about this season and they certainly deserve better. The players, too, deserve some sort of reward.

We haven't had the breaks often this season... one or two would help us on Saturday.



'Happy memories against Hibs'

BOBBY LENNOX (Celtic)

IT'S never been Celtic's style to underestimate anyone and that will not happen on Saturday at Hampden when we take on Hibs.

We played Real Madrid in the Bernabeu Stadium last month and gave them the utmost respect. Hibs will get the same treatment. That's the way we operate at Parkhead.

Games between Celtic and Hibs have been great for the fans in the past and I hope there will not be any complaints after this one.

I've got some happy memories against the Easter Road men at Hampden. I remember I once scored a hat-trick against them in a League Cup Final about 12 years ago when we won 6-2. It was a glorious sunny afternoon and something similar would be appreciated this time out!

Mind you, I didn't think a certain George Best would be lining up for them at some time in the future when I scored that hat-trick!

Hibs aren't as bad as their League position suggests. I've read and heard they haven't had a lot of luck this season and that is a very important ingredient in football. It can so often make the difference between delight and despair.

Everyone at Parkhead is looking forward to this game. There is still glamour in the Cup, and even although I am 37-years-old I still get excited about big occasion games.

Celtic haven't been in the last two Scottish Cup Finals... we are obviously keen to put an end to that run. If we play as well as we can we will win, but we will be taking nothing for granted. Hibs cannot expect to catch us unprepared.

TO beat one of the top eight teams in Europe augurs well for England's chances in the European Championship in June in Italy.

Our lads were magnificent against Spain in the friendly at Barcelona, and the victory, which could have been by more than two goals, is a tremendous confidence-booster and sounds warning bells for the other contestants for a trophy England have yet to win.

Spain, whom we play in Group Two, wanted a good result against us on their home ground, but England were just too good for them. The flowing football produced by our team won over a lot of their fans, who cheered many moves and gave an appreciative round of applause at the final whistle.

At no time was there any doubt about the result, England were so dominant.

I believe that ITV's commentator Brian Moore rated Steve Coppell 'Man of the Match', but for my money the best of a superb bunch was Tony Woodcock, who has regained the pace and sharpness he showed when he made his first appearances for Nottingham Forest a few seasons back.

He's also adjusted to the man-for-man marking that's a hallmark of Continental football, and which we'll be encountering later in Italy.

He continually had the Spaniards in a whirl by running at them, turning them and evading frantic tackling by sheer speed and jumping ability.

His goal was exceptional, one to savour. Picking the ball up on the halfway line, he arrowed at their defence, which instead of closing ranks opened up in front of him.

He had the courage and foresight to keep going, drew the 'keeper off his line and managed to shoot under him. There was an element of luck when the ball went into the net between a defender's legs, but by no means was it a "lucky goal".

Whereas Tony's goal was very much a solo effort, that of Trevor

made us wince on the subs' bench. Their back-four in particular brought our players low with tackles that would have earned them red cards if committed in our football.

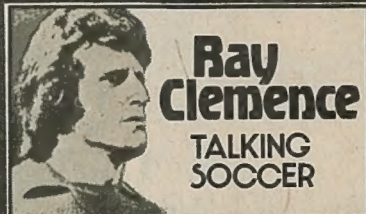
I can't imagine the match solved any of the problems of Kubala, the Spanish manager, who seems to be caught in a selector's nightmare. His experienced players are too old, certainly to last out three games in nine days in Italy, and his youngsters too raw and unused to the pressure of international football.

Anticipation

The only Spaniard who impressed me was goalkeeper Luis Arconada, whose handling, anticipation and agility certainly helped to keep the score down to 2-0. He plays for Real Sociedad, Spanish Championship contenders, and has let in only 15 goals in 26 League matches.

But Kubala is adamant that England have not softened up his team for their first game in the European Championship, against hosts and favourites Italy. In fact, he holds the opposite view, insisting that Spain will not play as badly again as they did against us.

All I know is, that our win has definitely given us a psychological



Francis was the result of several players combining to create the best move of the game.

It began with Phil Thompson playing the ball to Ray Wilkins, who then passed to Steve Coppell. It was by no means perfect, but Steve succeeded in gathering it despite being under pressure from Gordillo.

Shaking off the challenge, he sent the ball on to Trevor, with a yard on his marker, who brought it superbly under control, turned and drove it home across the 'keeper.

It was after this goal the Spaniards revealed the worst side of their football and resorted to fouls that



'ENGLAND

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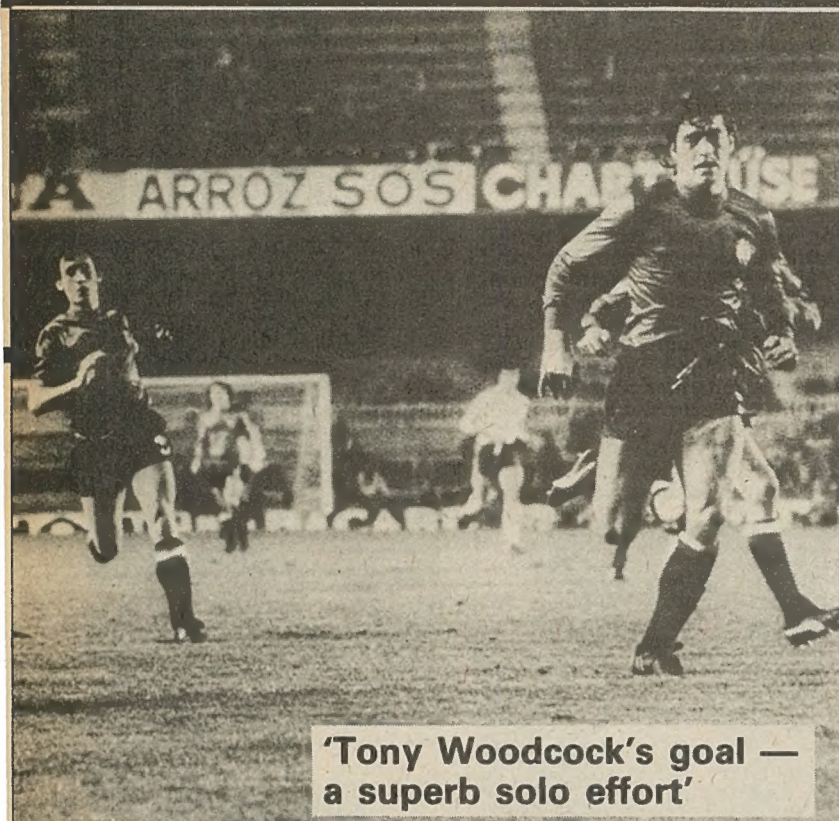
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'Tony Woodcock's goal — a superb solo effort'

IN MAGNIFICENT SHAPE'

advantage over the Spaniards, who we are due to meet in our third game.

With only two defeats from 24 games under manager Ron Greenwood's direction, the mood in the England camp could not be more optimistic of our chances of going on to great things. The signs point to England regaining a place amongst the World's leading soccer nations.

We possess an exciting blend of old and new players, who enjoy being together on and off the field. I can't recall such strength in depth. On the subs' bench in Spain we had Emlyn Hughes, Laurie Cunningham, who both came on briefly at the end of the game, Terry McDermott, Trevor Brooking and myself.

And as well as the other members of the squad not called upon to put on their strip, there were players of equal calibre, such as Glenn Hoddle and Bryan Robson, in the 'B' team back home.

Manager Ron Greenwood's problem is different from Kubala's — he's spoilt for choice.

For some time now, he's followed a policy of alternating Peter Shilton and me. Peter was only called upon to exert himself in the final stage of the Spanish game, and as usual performed with soundness and skill.

It's my turn in goal next, for the friendly at Wembley against World Champions Argentina, and I know that I must keep a clean sheet.

For soon the boss will decide which of us he's going to prefer as his first choice between the posts for at least two of the British Championship games and then the big tournament in Italy.



'We controlled the Cup-tie against Spurs'

It's in my hands to ensure the jersey comes to me!

In my own small way I've helped write some soccer history with Liverpool — by being part of the team that has become the first British club to win two European Cups, and to notch up a record 11 Championships — and the draw for the F.A. Cup Semi-Finals has presented me with the thrilling prospect of playing in the first-ever all-Merseyside Final.

It's almost incredible that in the 108-year history of the most glamorous domestic Cup competition that Liverpool and Everton have never met at the climax.

As you can guess, it's been the talking point on Merseyside ever since those little black numbered balls taken from the hat at Lancaster

Gate kept the two teams apart for the Semi-Finals.

If both teams get through the Semis and reach Wembley, the atmosphere in our home city is going to be unbelievable, surpassing any that has preceded a local derby.

On the big day itself, those fans not fortunate enough to get tickets will be glued to their TV sets, enthralled by the preliminary "warm up" programme and then the great event itself.

Liverpool will become a ghost city.

However, alluring as the prospect of a Merseyside Reds v Blues Final is to us at Anfield, it's important we thrust it to the backs of our minds and concentrate on overcoming the club that's barring our way — London's most powerful outfit, Arsenal.

It was The Gunners who ruined my first appearance at Wembley in an F.A. Cup Final — in 1971 when they beat us by 2-1 after extra-time to take the Cup and also become only the second club this century to do the sought-after double having won the Championship as well.

Arsenal are a club for whom we have tremendous respect, especially for their record as a Cup side. They've appeared in the last two Finals, losing to Ipswich in 1978,

regarded by many as the potential match-winner for Spurs, who brought about his club's exit from the Cup. And it was due to his own remarkable talent.

The moment came in the first-half when he was helping out in defence. Caught in a difficult situation, instead of playing the ball into touch for a throw-in as less-talented players would have done, he tried to keep it in play by passing upfield.

Unfortunately for him, the ball went straight to our Terry McDermott — who, incidentally, later picked him to the Players' Player of the Year award — and Terry, after teeing it up, volleyed over 'keeper Barry Daines and into the top far corner of the net.

Faded

Ardiles tried to redeem his error by continuing to cover every blade of grass on the pitch, helping out every section of his team in turn, but only ran himself ragged and faded in the second-half.

It was very much a duel between the midfields, with ours continually dominant, especially Terry McDermott. His goal has obviously put him in line for another "Goal of the Season award", to accompany the one he won two years ago for a

tremendous volleyed effort against Everton in the 1977 F.A. Cup Semi-Final.

So now we face Arsenal, who despite not achieving the consistency, their manager Terry Neill would like, are deadly as Cup-fighters.

Several players in their line-up are outstanding in their positions, such as centre-half David O'Leary, striker Frank Stapleton, and midfield man Liam Brady. I suspect Liam will be trying extra-hard as this could be his last chance at collecting one of our honours before he moves to a Continental club.

And in goal is Pat Jennings, the shovel-handed veteran who has lost little of his master's touch.

While we're battling it out at Hillsborough, the other Semi-Final, between two teams I had tipped not to survive the Sixth Round, Everton and West Ham, will be fought out at Villa Park.

Their presence is further proof of what a hopeless forecaster I am.

This Semi is so finely balanced, I'm not even tempted to tip a winner, although I hope it's Everton for the sake of everyone on Merseyside.

Wish us luck — without it, no team ever gets to drink from the Cup!

beating Manchester United, the team who knocked us out of the Semi-Finals in 1979, and are now bidding to become Finalists for the third time in a row.

As Semis are always played on a neutral ground — ours will take place at Hillsborough, the very modern ground of Sheffield Wednesday — neither of us has home advantage.

For Liverpool it will be the third hard game in succession, having beaten Nottingham Forest at the City Ground by 2-0 in the Fifth Round, and Spurs at White Hart Lane in the Sixth by 1-0.

Both ties were close-run, but we were always in control.

I felt especially sorry for Ardiles, Spurs' talented will-of-the-wisp Argentinian who was hoping to crown two marvellous seasons here with an appearance at Wembley. But then this is the dream of every "home-grown" player, and only a few realise it.

Ironically, it was Ardiles,

Ray Clemence

£38 MILLION TRANSFER BOOM

Andy Gray (left) and Steve Daley (right) have been involved in seven-figure transfers this season.

million, and Kevin Reeves from Norwich City to Manchester City for £1½ million.

Eight players changed clubs for fees of between £500,000 and the £850,000 paid by Manchester United for Chelsea's England midfielder master Ray Wilkins.

Big spenders

Another 120 players changed clubs for fees between £100,000 and £500,000. Manchester City were the biggest spenders. Manager Malcolm Allison paid out more than £3½ million although he was able to regain £1,650,000 by transferring six players, including Bobby Shinton whom he signed from Wrexham and sold to Newcastle United.

Tommy Docherty, manager of Queens Park Rangers, was another of the season's big spenders. Six signings cost him £1½ million, although The Doc retrieved



£465,000 of that amount when Crystal Palace paid that sum for former Rangers' skipper Gerry Francis. Leeds United also topped the one million in securing new players.

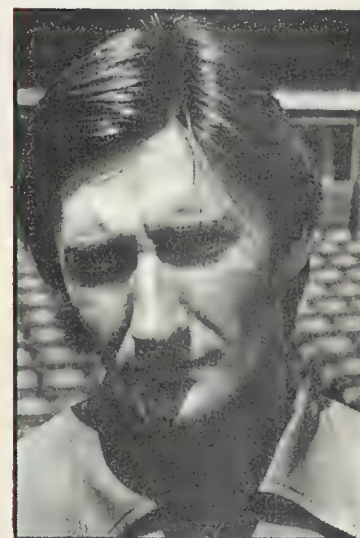
Brum's bargain

IF BIRMINGHAM City gain promotion, they will be indebted to bargain-buy, Jeff Wealands (below), who has emerged as one of the Midlands club's star players over the past few months.

The Birmingham goalkeeper cost only £30,000 from Hull City during the close season and it has proved to be money well spent by manager Jim Smith.

Wealands, a former Wolves player, said: "Life has certainly been a bit hectic in recent games but I'm enjoying myself at St. Andrews."

"We are in a very good position for promotion and if we can maintain our present form we should be knocking on the door at the end of the season."



DURING the past 12 months, that is from March, 1979 to March 13 this year, the deadline for transfers, more than £38 million pounds have changed hands between the clubs throughout the League.

Yes — £38,000,000, an all-time record in the history of the game. That colossal sum includes over £5 million for four players — Andy Gray from Aston Villa to Wolves, for a record £1½ million; Steve Daley from Wolves to Manchester City; West Brom's Laurie Cunningham to Real Madrid for a

FINAL TRANSFERS (Jan., Feb., March)

Gary Armstrong (Gillingham to Wimbledon)
Chic Bates (Swindon to Bristol R.)
Fred Binney (Plymouth to Hereford)
Phil Bonnyman (Carlisle to Chesterfield)
Willie Boyd (Hull to Doncaster)
Les Briley (Wimbledon to Aldershot)
Jimmy Brown (Aston Villa to Portsmouth)
Roger Brown (Norwich C. to Fulham)
Peter Cormack (Bristol C. to Hibernian)
David Donaldson (Millwall to Cambridge)
Bobby Downes (Watford to Barnsley)
Colin Duncan (Oxford U. to Gillingham)
Alan Garner (Watford to Portsmouth)
Paul Gilchrist (Swindon to Hereford)
Peter Grotier (Lincoln to Cardiff)
Chris Guthrie (Fulham to Millwall)
Vic Halom (Oldham to Rotherham)
Ray Hankin (Leeds U. to Vancouver Whitecaps)
Mark Harrison (Southampton to Port Vale)
David Harvey (Leeds to Vancouver Whitecaps)
Lee Harwood (Wimbledon to Port Vale)
David Hawker (Hull C. to Darlington)
Mark Heeley (Arsenal to Northampton)
Joe Hinnigan (Wigan A. to Sunderland)
Stuart Lee & Willie Donachie (Man. City to Portland Timbers)
Ivan Katalinic (Hadjuk Split to Southampton)
Kevin Keegan (Hamburg to Southampton; end of season)
Nolan Keeley (Scunthorpe to Lincoln C.)
Tony Kellow (Blackpool to Exeter C.)

Steve Kember (Crystal P. to Vancouver Whitecaps)
Ray Lewington (Vancouver Whitecaps to Fulham)
Frank McGarvey (Liverpool to Celtic)
Neil McNab (Bolton to Brighton)
Gary Megson (Plymouth to Everton)
Keith Mercer (Watford to Southend U.)
Adrian O'Dowd (Aston Villa to Oxford U.)
Vince O'Keefe (Exeter to Torquay)
Derek Parker (Southend U. to Blackpool)
Derek Parlane (Rangers to Leeds U.)
Steve Parsons (Wimbledon to Orient)
David Peach (Southampton to Swindon)
Dennis Peacock (Doncaster R. to Bolton)
John Phillips (Chelsea to Brighton)
Trevor Phillips (Hull C. to Chester)
Ian Redford (Dundee to Rangers)
Kevin Reeves (Norwich C. to Manchester C.)
Dennis Rofe (Leicester C. to Chelsea)
Geoff Scott (Stoke C. to Leicester C.)
John Sinton (Chelsea to Millwall)
Bobby Shinton (Manchester C. to Newcastle)
John Stirk (Watford to Chesterfield)
Dennis Tueart (Cosmos to Manchester C.)
John Turner (Torquay to Chesterfield)
Roger Van Gool (Cologne to Coventry C.)
Colin Viljoen (Manchester C. to Chelsea)
Roy Walsh (Glentoran to Swindon)
Clive Woods (Ipswich to Norwich C.)
Roger Wylde (Sheffield Wednesday to Oldham)

JOHN Balavage, the 19-year-old Albion Rovers goalkeeper, could be the next Scot to join Liverpool. The youngster has been under the eye of Anfield officials in recent weeks and has received an invitation to spend a week with the English League Champions.

TOP SOCCER "UMBRO" COMPETITION

In a Top Soccer competition readers were invited to match up team nicknames with club grounds. The correct answers were: Molineux — B; Goldstone Ground — A; Carrow Road — C; Filbert Street — E; Hillsborough — D; Vetch Field — F.

Senders of the first 25 correct entries checked after the closing date each receive a football strip in their chosen club colours and are:

Alan Amos, Portsmouth; Richard Bailey, Melbourne; Stephen Barber, Croydon; Peter Chapman, Forest Gate; Leo Clifford, Bracknell; Grant Coleby, Dawlish; Wayne Cooney, Birmingham; Gavin Cooper, Ripon; Geoff Grayson, Saltburn; Phillip Greer, Londonderry; Paul Hayward, Swindon; James Hollister, Harrow; Michelle Hooke, Southampton; Paul Murphy, Dartford; Mark Nicoll, Enfield; Chris Overton, Dorking; Gareth Oxtoby, Sutton; Craig Perkins, Bristol; Andrew Rooke, Birmingham; Andrew Sharpe, Desborough; Alan Smith, Grimsby; Paul Taylor, Poole; Gavin Ward, Kingston-upon-Thames; Damian Whittaker, Pontypool; Mark Willey, Exeter.

JIM GOES DUTCH

JIMMY Calderwood (left) has joined Sparta Rotterdam on a short term contract but it is possible that the Birmingham City player will stay on the Continent — if he likes playing with the Dutch club.

Calderwood accepted the offer after failing to win a regular spot in the Birmingham side after his recall from Cambridge United.

He would have been happy to have joined Cambridge on a permanent basis but the two clubs could not agree terms.

Incidentally, Sparta asked Birmingham if Terry Lees could join them but this move fell through because of personal reasons. Sparta were fully aware of the ex-Stoke players' capabilities because he had previously played for F.C. Roda.



ULSTER-BORN, Eire-based Kieran Dowd, a full cousin of Doncaster Rovers' Northern Ireland international pivot Hugh Dowd, can rightly lay claim to managerial fame, in that he is team-boss of the only All-Ireland international soccer team, namely, the Irish Universities side, which consists of student players from all over the Emerald Isle.



Dave Watson in command as Juanito is beaten to the ball.



ENGLAND REIGN



ABOVE . . . Phil Thompson clears the ball from Spain's captain Dani.

RIGHT . . . Steve Coppel and Saura chase a loose ball.



ENGLAND produced one of their best performances for years to beat Spain, one of the nations they must overcome in the European Championship, 2-0 in Barcelona. Now, perhaps, England, with just two defeats in 24 matches under Ron Greenwood, will receive the credit such a fine record deserves.

LEFT . . . Trevor Francis had a superb game for England, scoring a well-taken goal to make it 2-0.



ABOVE . . . The pace of Tony Woodcock was a feature of England's attacking play.

BELOW . . . Kevin Keegan, who won his 50th cap in Barcelona, wards off a challenge from Uria.

IN SPAIN





THE EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP STORY

PART 1

RUSSIA'S HOLLOW VICTORY

TODAY the European Championship (originally known as the European Nations Cup) is soccer big-business.

Played over a two-year period following each World Cup ... to Europeans it now ranks a pretty good international runner-up to that competition.

All the same, like the World Cup itself, it had a relatively uneventful and uninspiring beginning.

Henri Delaunay, when secretary of the French Football Association, had long championed the idea of a European international team competition on World Cup lines.

Sadly, he didn't live to see the fruition of his dream come true with its official kick-off in 1958 — though the name of the trophy for which it's played, the Henri Delaunay Cup, remains a permanent and fitting memorial to his pioneering efforts.

The first two Championships (1958-to-1960 and 1962-to-1964) were organized on the familiar pattern of European club competitions — that's to say, on a home-and-away aggregate knock-out basis up to the final stages — instead of the "mini-League" Group system, more on World Cup lines. U.E.F.A. have introduced since.

The very first competition, though, was badly weakened in status by the absence of many leading European soccer countries.

The four British nations — plus the likes of Italy, West Germany, Holland, and Belgium — all stayed

out, and the total entry amounted to only 17.

The best of the rest, Russia, deservedly won — inspired by the superb form of their goalkeeper, the legendary Lev Yashin — even if, in all the circumstances, it was still in some ways something of a hollow victory.

After an impressive triumph, both home and away, over the then formidable Hungarians, they had the luck of a free-ride into the Semi-Finals when strong potential opponents Spain withdrew on political grounds.

Like the Final itself, the Semis were played on neutral French territory — Russia beating Czechoslovakia 3-0, and Yugoslavia just edging a 5-4 thriller over the host-nation.

But the attendance to see Russia beat Yugoslavia 2-1 in the Final — a meagre 17,966 — probably summed-up the general feeling that, as yet, the European Championship hadn't set the public's imagination on fire.

ENGLAND HAMMERED

THE second competition (1962-to-1964) was much better supported, with an entry of 29 nations — 12 up on its predecessor.

Only Scotland, of the British nations, declined to take part — though England's initial efforts were embarrassingly short-lived.

In the First Round, after being held 1-1 at home, they were well

beaten 5-2 by the French in the second-leg.

Ironically, in view of England's Ramsey-inspired triumph in winning the World Cup only just over three years later, it's interesting to reflect that this heavy defeat in Paris was Sir Alf's first match as team-manager.

Wales were also put out first-go by Hungary, but Eire overcame Iceland — and Northern Ireland had a noteworthy 4-0 aggregate win over Poland.

Then both Irelands went out — Eire to Austria; and the North, after courageously drawing 1-1 in Bilbao, going down 0-1 at home to the Spaniards.

In the Semi-Finals, held in Spain, the hosts took care of Hungary 2-1, while Russia had little trouble in overcoming Denmark 3-0.

Thus, on her home soil, Spain — who had pulled-out of a meeting with Russia four years earlier — were paired with them in the Final.

This time, however, political differences were shelved, and the Madrid Final was played before 120,000 spectators with a 2-1 win for Spain.

They took an early fifth minute lead through Pereda but, within two minutes, Khusainov had levelled the score — and it wasn't until six minutes from time that Marcelino scored a brilliant goal to take the title off the holders.

But, most important, the European Championship (or Nations Cup, as it was still called) seemed to have "arrived".



1958-to-1960 Competition

Preliminary Round

Eire 2, Czechoslovakia 0
Czechoslovakia 4, Eire 0
(Czechoslovakia 4-2 agg.)

First Round

France 7, Greece 1
Greece 1, France 1
(France 8-2 agg.)
Russia 3, Hungary 1
Hungary 0, Russia 1
(Russia 4-1 agg.)
Rumania 3, Turkey 0
Turkey 2, Rumania 0
(Rumania 3-2 agg.)
Norway 0, Austria 1
Austria 5, Norway 2
(Austria 6-2 agg.)
Yugoslavia 2, Bulgaria 0
Bulgaria 1, Yugoslavia 1
(Yugoslavia 3-1 agg.)
Portugal 3, East Germany 2

East Germany 0, Portugal 2
(Portugal 5-2 agg.)

Denmark 2, Czechoslovakia 2
Czechoslovakia 5, Denmark 1
(Czechoslovakia 7-3 agg.)

Poland 2, Spain 4
Spain 3, Poland 0
(Spain 7-2 agg.)

Quarter-Finals

Portugal 2, Yugoslavia 1
Yugoslavia 5, Portugal 1
(Yugoslavia 6-3 agg.)

France 5, Austria 2
Austria 2, France 4
(France 9-4 agg.)

Rumania 0, Czechoslovakia 2
Czechoslovakia 3, Rumania 0
(Czechoslovakia 5-0 agg.)

Russia passed through to Semi-Finals as opponents Spain withdrew

Semi-Finals

Yugoslavia 5, France 4 (Paris)
Russia 3, Czechoslovakia 0
(Marseilles)

Final (Paris: 10 July, 1960)
(attendance: 17,966)

Russia 2, Yugoslavia 1 (after extra-time)

Russia: Yashin, Tchekeli, Kroutikov, Voinov, Maslennikov, Netto, Metreveli, Ivanov, Ponedelnik, Bubukin, Meshki.
Yugoslavia: Vidinic, Durkovic, Jusufi, Zanotic, Miladinovic, Perusic, Sekularac, Jerkovic, Galic, Matus, Kostic.
Scorers: Metreveli, Ponedelnik for Russia; Netto (own-goal) for Yugoslavia.

Third-Place Match

Czechoslovakia 2, France 0

1962-to-1964 Competition

First Round

Spain 6, Rumania 0
Rumania 3, Spain 1
(Spain 7-3 agg.)

Poland 0, Northern Ireland 2
Northern Ireland 2, Poland 0
(N. Ireland 4-0 agg.)

Denmark 6, Malta 1
Malta 1, Denmark 3
(Denmark 9-2 agg.)

Eire 4, Iceland 2
Iceland 1, Eire 1
(Eire 5-3 agg.)

Albania passed through to Second Round as opponents Greece withdrew.

East Germany 2, Czechoslovakia 1
Czechoslovakia 1, East Germany 1
(East Germany 3-2 agg.)



Russian goalkeeper Lev Yashin (main picture) saves during their 1960 Final victory. England (above, white shirts) were handed a 5-2 thrashing by France in the 1962-64 competition. Spain went on to win the tournament (right).



NEXT WEEK:
*England's vital match
at Hampden*

Hungary 3, Wales 1
Wales 1, Hungary 1
(Hungary 4-2 agg.)

Italy 6, Turkey 0
Turkey 0, Italy 1
(Italy 7-0 agg.)

Holland 3, Switzerland 1
Switzerland 1, Holland 1
(Holland 4-2 agg.)

Norway 0, Sweden 2
Sweden 1, Norway 1
(Sweden 3-1 agg.)

Yugoslavia 3, Belgium 2
Belgium 0, Yugoslavia 1
(Yugoslavia 4-2 agg.)

Bulgaria 3, Portugal 1
Portugal 3, Bulgaria 1
Bulgaria 1, Portugal 0 (decider)
(Bulgaria 5-4 agg.)

England 1, France 1
France 5, England 2
(France 6-3 agg.)

Second Round

Spain 1, Northern Ireland 1
Northern Ireland 0, Spain 1
(Spain 2-1 agg.)

Denmark 4, Albania 0
Albania 1, Denmark 0
(Denmark 4-1 agg.)

Austria 0, Eire 0
Eire 3, Austria 2
(Eire 3-2 agg.)

East Germany 1, Hungary 2
Hungary 3, East Germany 3
(Hungary 5-4 agg.)

Russia 2, Italy 0
Italy 1, Russia 1
(Russia 3-1 agg.)

Holland 1, Luxembourg 1
Luxembourg 2, Holland 1
(Luxembourg 3-2 agg.)

Yugoslavia 0, Sweden 0
Sweden 3, Yugoslavia 2
(Sweden 3-2 agg.)

Bulgaria 1, France 0
France 3, Bulgaria 1
(France 3-2 agg.)

Quarter-Finals

Luxembourg 2, Denmark 2
Denmark 3, Luxembourg 3
Denmark 1, Luxembourg 0
(decider)
(Denmark 6-5 agg.)

Spain 5, Eire 1
Eire 0, Spain 2
(Spain 7-1 agg.)

France 1, Hungary 3
Hungary 2, France 1
(Hungary 5-2 agg.)

Sweden 1, Russia 1
Russia 3, Sweden 1
(Russia 4-2 agg.)

Semi-Finals

Russia 3, Denmark 0 (Barcelona)
Spain 2, Hungary 1 (Madrid)

Final (Madrid: 21 June, 1964)
(attendance: 120,000)

Spain 2, Russia 1

Spain: Iribar, Rivilla, Colleja, Fuste, Olivella, Zoco, Amancio, Pareda, Marcellino, Suarez, Lapetra.

Russia: Yashin, Chustikov, Mudrik, Voronin, Chesternjiev, Anitchkine, Chislenko, Ivanov, Ponedelnik, Kornaev, Khusainov.

Scorers: Pareda, Marcellino for Spain; Khusainov for Russia

Third-Place Match

Hungary 3, Denmark 1 (after extra-time).

Jimmy Greenhoff has made a miraculous recovery after being written off by specialists.

JIM'S

WELCOME back, Jimmy Greenhoff! I never thought I'd be saying that just a few months after specialists had advised him to quit playing because of a deep-rooted pelvic injury.

Jimmy made a sensational return to the Manchester United first team as substitute against Everton at Old Trafford recently.

Although he's not quite 100 per cent match fit it's good to know he's around if we should need him on the final run in to the season.

Despite his brave fighting heart, our Jim almost gave up hope of ever playing top class soccer again. He was helping coach the reserves and assessing our opponents. Then one day he joined in a five-a-side game during training.

He felt no reaction and became a regular figure in these games. Then he decided to have a run out with the reserves.

Gradually he stepped up his matches and training and regained strength, and a lot of his old pace. The infectious smile returned... Jimmy was on his way back.

Obviously we've missed Jimmy at United. Not only is he guaranteed for eight or nine goals each season but can control a game up-front. Jimmy has this ability to retain possession of the ball and then

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Don Howe gave Gordon a lot of encouragement while the Scotland defender was out with injury at Leeds.

FIXED IT'

release it at just the right time... just like my old Leeds pal Eddie Gray who suffered a similar injury and experience to Jimmy.

Eddie's injury was so bad it kept him out of action for over a year. Everyone at Elland Road, myself included, had almost given him up and the club was preparing to offer him a job on the coaching staff.

Determined

But Eddie wouldn't accept defeat. He decided to have one last try to regain fitness. He trained, often in pain, determined to play again.

Then one morning, just like Jimmy, he felt no reaction. Eddie increased training, played a few games for the juniors and reserves and proved he was ready to make a comeback.

I know only too well how Eddie and Jimmy felt during their long spell out of the game.

I was out of action for a full year during my Leeds days from November, 1975 to November, 1976.

I suffered an Achilles heel injury, which became infected after an operation.

The injury was so bad at one stage — the tissues were being eaten

away — I began to despair and wondered if I'd ever play again.

Finally after a third operation the wound began to heal and I could hobble around without sticks.

Don Howe, now the Arsenal coach, was Leeds' trainer at the time and helped me over my difficult period.

I owe Don more than I can say. Not only did he give me every encouragement, but came back every afternoon to put me through light training.

Apart from Don, I had Joe Jordan for company, eight months of that year.

Joe was out with a pelvic strain and received treatment every day with me. We helped to keep each other's spirits up.

Since those injuries Joe and I have always trained half-an-hour before a match so we don't go out cold and suffer a pull or muscle

strain.

We are also in every morning at least 40 minutes before the other lads to get warmed up before starting the real training.

I honestly believe this has helped us resist hamstring and groin trouble.

As you can imagine I wasn't always the best of company during that lay-off, although I tried not to let it affect my family life too much.

Quite often it's the wives and kids who cop it most when a player has a bad injury.

Funny thing, you get into a

routine of being injured, the same way as you do when playing.

You have to report earlier than the other lads... go in every Sunday morning for treatment... watch games instead of playing in them.

Players can adapt to a long-term injury after a while, but hate missing the odd game.

I'm no exception and get really bad tempered if a knock means I have to sit it out for one or two matches.

Hope I'm okay for Saturday, which just happens to be the F.A. Cup Semi-Finals time... in case you hadn't noticed.

Ironically, United are at home to Tottenham, the team that knocked us out of the competition in a Third Round replay at Old Trafford.

Before going on to Spurs, though, here's how I rate the Semi-Finals.

A few weeks ago I would have plumped for West Ham beating Everton. But The Hammers have suffered a couple of set-backs in the League while Everton produced bet-

ter results, including that 0-0 draw at Old Trafford. So I must just give the edge to Everton.

Liverpool v. Arsenal? A hard one to predict. Like most neutrals I don't want an all-Merseyside Final. A North v. South battle will be much more interesting.

Both clubs are going well at the moment, but Liverpool must come unstuck at sometime. And there's nothing like a Cup Semi-Final for that to happen.

I'll stick my neck out and predict a win for Arsenal.

But back to Spurs... and the battle for League points.

Matches between our two clubs are usually dramatic affairs.

This season, for example, United knocked them out of the League Cup, after being 2-1 down in the first-leg.

We also beat them in the League — 2-1 at White Hart Lane.

As you'll recall Ardiles scored a brilliant F.A. Cup Third Round match-winner at Old Trafford, on a night when United did nothing to deserve victory.

Recriminations

It was terrible being knocked out so early, but there were no recriminations at United.

We don't go in for dressing room accusations and rows at Old Trafford. That sort of thing can easily destroy team-spirit.

Although I've the utmost respect for Tottenham and would love to see the club win a major honour, I don't think they will — yet.

Agreed Spurs have quality players such as Hoddle, Ardiles, Villa and Perryman, but not enough of them to be a serious threat.

Let's hope they don't make me eat those words at 4.40 pm on Saturday evening.

Gordon Strachan



Inside the 1975/76 Tottenham's winning goal in their F.A. Cup Third Round replay against Manchester United at Old Trafford this season.

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NO BAD NEWS IS GOOD NEWS FOR MILLWALL

GEORGE Petchey has every reason for pride and satisfaction as he looks back on 16 years as a coach and manager.

In that time he helped steer Crystal Palace to the First Division for the first time in their history and also guided Orient to within one point of the same prize.

He left both clubs with the best teams they had ever had. But now he feels the side he is building at Millwall will be the best of the lot.

The Lions have made the news in the past usually because of the trouble some of their fans have caused.



George Petchey

Petchey — and everyone else at Cold Blow Lane — has worked hard to wipe out the stigma a minority of mindless hooligans have brought and change the reputation of the club.

And the signs are that they are succeeding. The Lions escaped recently after a linesman was hit by a lump of concrete thrown from the terraces during the F.A. Cup tie against Shrewsbury.

And Petchey believes this could signal the start of a new era for a club who have had more than their share of problems.

"Those problems could have put us out of business. For no one is in any doubt that we would have been closed down if the hooligans had continued to run riot," says Petchey.

"Fortunately most of those that were causing the trouble came to their senses and realised the danger."

"I thought it was hard at Orient — but that was a doddle compared to this," he says.

"The team I left behind at Orient reached the Semi-Finals of the F.A. Cup and should have got promotion the following year. If I had stayed there I'm firmly convinced they would have done it."

"I got a lot of satisfaction at what the Orient team I built achieved. But when I think of what can happen here at Millwall I drool

with anticipation.

"We have made much more progress than I ever expected in my two years and for the first time this club has a future."

"We have got some of the best youngsters in the country, and they won the F.A. Youth Cup last season."

"The whole club is built on youth, which gives an outstanding base for the future. Of the 22 professionals I have only eight over the age of 23."

"I've regularly had five and six teenagers in my first team throughout this season. That's why our results have been a bit patchy."

"It was because I put so many youngsters in that we went down last year. I don't regret it. It was something that had to be done."

"I inherited an old side and quickly decided that most of the players here when I arrived would have to go."

"And they were happy to accept that situation. They wanted to get away because they could see no future for Millwall."

"Now we have so many youngsters that I will have to take on another full-time youth coach to help look after them."

"Kids are eager to join Millwall because they know they will get an early chance in the team if they prove their worth. We are not afraid to push them in."

Brilliant

Kevin O'Callaghan — one of the brilliant young Lion Cubs who helped win the F.A. Youth Cup — is no longer with the club. He was sold to First Division Ipswich for £300,000 to help ease the club's financial plight.

And cynics claim that more will have to follow — for over the years Millwall have always been forced to sell their best players.

"We might have to sell again to help balance the books even more. The money from O'Callaghan helped us to get things right. One more could put us on a really even keel," Petchey admits.

"But after that there should be no reason to part with anyone else. We will be able to hang on to the players we find and develop."

"Our financial position — desperate when I came here — has now eased considerably and we can face the future with confidence."

"We are pushing through a project with a superstore group that will turn our ground into a luxury leisure centre. And once that gets the go-ahead we will really be on our way."

"I honestly believe that within two or three years this club will be getting the kind of success they only dreamed about in the past."



Mark Dennis (dark shirt) outjumps his former Birmingham team-mate Steve Fox, now at Wrexham.

TOP MARKS FOR DENNIS

MARK Dennis for England! That is the cry that continually flows from the stands and terraces at Birmingham City. And there can be no doubt that the knowledgeable St. Andrews crowd know what they're talking about.

Since the 18-year-old left-back made his League debut against Norwich last season, he has developed into one of the top prospects in the Football League.

Nine England Youth caps have come the way of the chirpy Londoner, and this season he was chosen for the Under-21 game against Bulgaria on a foggy November night at Filbert Street, Leicester.

"It was an ambition come true," he says. "It's my proudest moment. Obviously I'd love to play at full level, but that's in the future. Even so, it would be tremendous."

"I gave a satisfactory performance against Bulgaria. It was a wonderful experience and I enjoyed every minute of it. We won 5-0, but the opposition were only average."

"I was naturally disappointed when I didn't represent my country in their next game against Scotland at Highfield Road, Coventry."

"But I had some consolation when I received a letter from Ron Greenwood saying he was looking for more experience. It was the Quarter-Finals of the European Championship and I think that's why he brought in Kenny Sansom."

"Hopefully, the chance will come again. I'm dying to get back into the white strip."

"I face a lot of competition for the left-back spot if I'm to make the breakthrough to the full squad. It's a healthy position to be in for Ron Greenwood. Emlyn Hughes and Trevor Cherry have filled in, but left-back is not their position."

"To play for England you've got to be a natural. Most of the other national sides like Brazil and West Germany play the one sided naturals, and they've always got specialist players in the number three spot."

"Colin Gibson of Aston Villa is one of the main challengers now that Derek Statham's season has been marred through injury."

"I know it's difficult, but I try not to think about playing for England. My heart's with Birmingham City and concentrating on promotion."

"We're all confident we can bounce back at the first time of asking, but we're not too complacent. We won't be satisfied with just promotion — we want to do it in style and carry off the Second Division Championship."

'Inability'

"We have one of the best defensive records in the Second Division. If we do lose, it's usually by one goal. Our failing has been our inability to beat the lowly placed sides when we travel away."

"The Second Division is more kick and rush. There isn't as much skill. In the First Division the ball's on the ground and there's more skill. You also get more time."

"But in the Second for 70 per cent of a match you're looking in the air for the ball to come down. There are a lot of big, hopeful kicks."

"I'm not being big-headed, but I think my game is better suited to top flight football. It's easier to read and you've a good idea of what the opposition is going to do. The Second is so unpredictable."

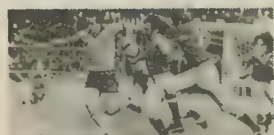
"Mistakes in the top two Divisions are often punished. I have given away a few penalties this season, which can be costly — especially at the top."

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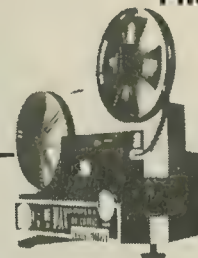
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Two Scotland goalkeepers with different fortunes

ON the 12th of January this year, Coventry City goalkeeper Jim Blyth stepped back into the glare of the First Division limelight after 18 months of misery that draped an ominous shadow over his professional future.

Although Jim had gone to Argentina with Scotland's World Cup squad and returned without playing a game, his disappointment turned to elation when a £440,000 bid from Manchester United seemed certain to bring him an exciting and profitable future at Old Trafford.

But the back trouble that had given the Coventry 'keeper cause for worry in the past failed to clear the hurdle of medical opinion and

back injury that had cost him an Old Trafford future, hit the Scottish international once again during a pre-match kick-about, and he was carried off.

"When I was carried off before our home game with them had even started," says Jim, "I knew that something would have to be done about my back if I was ever going to be certain that the same thing wouldn't happen again. So, I had an operation, and it looks as if it's been completely successful."

"Even though I returned to a 1-0 defeat, I was delighted to be back in First Division action after 19 weeks of uncertainty about my future in the game."

Since Jim began his climb back to the top, he has moved swiftly and smoothly into top gear, and that must surely guarantee the presence of the Scotland boss, Jock Stein, at a Coventry game soon.

Blyth, capped in 1978 against Bulgaria and Wales, believes that his club is poised on the brink of an exciting future, and his optimistic look at Coventry City's tomorrow is based on the glittering seam of young talent manager Gordon Milne has mined at Highfield Road.

"Coventry's youth set-up is one of the best in the country, and the youngsters who have come into the side recently have proved this. That fine victory over Liverpool was a tribute to the ability and composure of the seven under-21 lads who lined-up against the League Champions."

Grabbed

But those headline-hitting kids who stood soccer on its ear on the 19th of January were swept off the F.A. Cup trail seven days later at Blackburn where Third Division Rovers grabbed the only goal of the game.

Coming so quickly on the heels of their memorable triumph over the Anfield aces, Coventry's unexpected exit from the ranks of the Wembley contenders was a bitter disappointment to Gordon Milne's young cavaliers. But they have proved during their excellently organised apprenticeship at Highfield Road that they possess the character to match their talents, and that is a priceless commodity when you're on your way to the peaks.

It is a pity therefore, at times the boo-boys among the Coventry supporters have given their team a vocal hammering.

"If those people aren't satisfied they can have a go at me," says Gordon Milne, "but I certainly don't want them undermining the confidence of my young players with their abuse."

But those young men of Coventry who spiked the heavy artillery of Liverpool with such authority, skill, and courage have no need to fear the rantings of Highfield Road's mindless minority. They are headed for splendid horizons, and that is one reason why brave Jim Blyth no longer broods over missing the Manchester United boat, one reason why he is glad to be back.



HARVEY'S FALL

THERE was no fanfare of trumpets or blaze of headlines as former Scottish international goalkeeper David Harvey left Leeds United in his testimonial year.

Only six years ago he was being talked about as being the best goalkeeper in the 1974 World Cup Finals in West Germany and his place as Scotland's number one seemed assured after his superb consistency and overall confidence.

However, it took only £30,000 to shift him from Elland Road to Vancouver Whitecaps on the North American Soccer circuit where he will replace former Wolves favourite Phil Parkes.

Harvey's fall from the top has been swift and unexpected. At the start of the season he was desperate to be included again in Jock Stein's Scotland plans for the future.

"I know I'm still good enough," he said. "I love playing for Scotland and I just don't know what I would do if someone told me I wouldn't ever represent them again."

Consistent

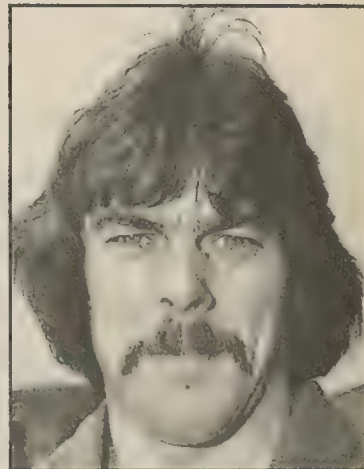
There was a grim, steel-like approach to the future from Harvey, but he is unlikely to get back into any Scotland squads while playing for Vancouver Whitecaps, no matter how consistent he may be.

He really is entering a whole new ball game in America and he has everything to prove again. But he won't shirk that challenge.

"I've heard a lot of things about football over there and I've been interested in giving it a chance," he says. "This is just the move I needed. I'm looking forward to it."

Harvey has left Leeds in good hands in young John Lukic, the teenager who has made a startling impact in the first team this season since his introduction.

Harvey lost his first team place through injury earlier in the term and never regained it such was the brilliance of Lukic.



It's a pity that English-born Harvey, who qualified to play for Scotland through his parents, never quite received the recognition his polished talents deserved.

He lost his international place through injury before a friendly against Switzerland four years ago and Alan Rough, from Partick Thistle, stepped in.

Rough has now, of course, gone on to set a record for a Scottish goalkeeper — surpassing the previous best held by Spurs' Bill Brown — while Harvey has looked on from the sidelines.

Harvey's career might not have taken the route he might have hoped earlier in his career. He made the breakthrough once, can he do it again?

He won't fail for the lack of trying, but, realistically, there seems little chance that he will ever pull that yellow Scottish goalkeeper's jersey over his head again.

That will surely sadden him as he leaves for his new career in America.

BLYTH'S SPIRIT

the Perth lad's dream transfer never materialised.

It was a set-back that affected Blyth's form and shunted him into the sidings of reserve-team football, but the big Scot reclaimed his first team spot, only to lose it again last September, when, just before the kick-off in the home game against Norwich City, the





YOU ARE THE REF

Compiled by CLIVE THOMAS

1

Although you have clearly indicated otherwise, a player insists that an opponent handled the ball. You stop play to caution him for dissent. Should you restart play with: (a) a drop ball, (b) an indirect free-kick, or (c) a direct free-kick?



2

Can a player taking a throw-in stand five yards nearer his own goal-line from where the ball crossed the touchline?



3

At a corner-kick an attacker, other than the kicker, takes up a position off the pitch intending to run on to a short pass. Is this permissible?



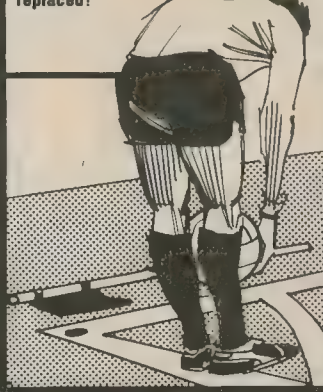
4

You award a penalty-kick. The goalkeeper, upset by your decision makes no attempt to save. Can you caution the goalkeeper for ungentlemanly conduct?



5

To obtain more space at a corner-kick a player removes the flagpost. Should you (a) award an indirect free-kick, (b) drop the ball or (c) insist that the flagpost is replaced?



ANSWERS

1. Indirect free-kick (b). 2. No. 3. No. 4. Yes. 5. Insist that the flagpost is replaced (c). When matches are televised invariably the television crew asks if I would mind the halfway line flag being taken away, so that their camera near the touch line has no interference. This can be done but the corner flag must never be taken away.

A Peach of a move!



THERE can't be many players who'd give up the chance of playing alongside a soccer superstar like Kevin Keegan, to do battle in the relatively humble surroundings of the Third Division. Yet that's just what David Peach chose to do, when he left Southampton to join Swindon Town, in a £150,000 move at the beginning of March.

"I suppose there must be a lot of people who, when they heard about the move, thought I must be mad," David said.

"After all, there aren't many players who get the chance to line up alongside someone as talented as Kevin.

"There's a tremendous atmosphere about the town already. Almost like the Cup fever of a couple of years ago. Wherever you go, people want to talk about Kevin, and what he'll do for the club. He's the idol of millions, and when he plays for Saints next season, they'll be the side everyone will want to see. That means all the other players at the club will find themselves in the limelight, too.

"Sure, I would have liked to have shared in that sort of star treatment. Who wouldn't? But for me, anyway, football goes a lot deeper than that.

"I felt that this move offered me the opportunity for a lot of personal satisfaction. That's why I said yes.

"There certainly wasn't any pressure to sign put on me by Southampton. Let's dispel those rumours right now. The decision was entirely mine. I was quite welcome to stay and fight for my place in the side if I wanted to."

But having said that, David agrees that when the offer came, it was completely out of the blue.

"I learnt about it on the Thursday, and after discussing

things with my wife, who was expecting our second baby at the time, I arranged to meet the Swindon chairman, and Bobby Smith the manager, on the Saturday.

"The whole set-up at Swindon really impressed me. But especially the boss, and his progressive ideas to put the club on the footballing map.

"Then I went back to The Dell to talk the whole thing over with Lawrie McMenemy, before agreeing to sign.

"Prior to my move, I'd only seen Swindon on the television, in the League Cup and F.A. Cup, when their performances had looked way above their Third Division status.

"Ironically, those good Cup runs seem to have rebounded on us somewhat in the League. Mr. Smith pointed out that he'd always seen promotion as the number one aim, and with games in hand over our rivals, that goal was still a possibility.

"But he wanted to try and ensure that we took full advantage of them."

That's where Peach came in. He sees his role as being very much one of a steadying influence in the final push for promotion.

David's debut for the Wiltshire based side wasn't exactly what the doctor ordered. A 6-1 away defeat at the hands of Millwall. But he sees what could possibly be a silver lining, even in such an apparent dark cloud.

"Strangely enough, when I played my first full game for Southampton, after joining them from Gillingham, back in February, 1974, we suffered an even worse defeat at the hands of Ipswich. They beat us 7-0 at Portman Road, and at the time, we were riding high in the First Division.

'Hoping'

"But despite that, I went on to two Wembley appearances with the club. Winning an F.A. Cup winners medal in 1976, and a League Cup runners-up medal in 1979. I also played in Europe with them... as well as gaining England Under-21 recognition as an over-age player. I'm obviously hoping for something similar here.

"There's no doubt about it, I had some tremendous times at The Dell. And anyone who has ever been connected with the big man, Lawrie McMenemy, will know what a wrench it was for me to leave him. He really is the tops as far as I'm concerned.

"Who else could have pulled off the Keegan deal like he did?

"Kevin's going to be a tremendous asset to the club. Not only because of his own, undoubted skills, but for the influence he's going to have on the highly promising youngsters Lawrie's got in his side. Exciting players like Steve Williams, who said in SHOOT recently how thrilled he was about the prospect of playing alongside Kevin, are certain to get even better because of that experience.

"Yes! I'm sure there are good times ahead for my old club. But I'm equally hopeful about the prospects here at the County Ground, too.

"And I'm delighted that I've been given the chance to play a vital role in that future."

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BACK ROW (left to right): Ian Bowyer, David Needham, Trevor Francis, Kenny Burns, Martin O'Neill, Peter Shilton, Larry Lloyd, Charlie George (Southampton), John O'Hare.

FRONT ROW: Frank Gray, John Robertson, Garry Birtles, Viv Anderson, Stan Bowles.

AM FOREST



SHOOT!

GOALLINES

Send your letters to **STEVE CARTER, GOAL-LINES, SHOOT!**, IPC Magazines Ltd., King's Reach Tower, Stamford St., London SE1 9LS. U.K. readers receive £5 for the Star Letter — £2 for every other letter published. Overseas readers receive a special **SHOOT** T-shirt. Please state which size: small, medium or large. When writing to us please mention the two features you liked best in the latest issue of **SHOOT!**
All letters must be exclusive to this magazine.

This week's Star Letter comes from exiled Manchester City fan J. Putre of Blacktown, N.S.W., Australia, who wins a special **SHOOT** T-shirt. He writes:

CITY — A VIEW FROM DOWN UNDER . . .

★ I have supported Manchester City for eight years. In that time, the team has had its ups and downs, but the situation has never been worse than it is now . . . defeat after defeat. We are slowly heading for Division Two.

This is obviously because of Malcolm Allison. He floats from one club to another causing trouble. He took Crystal Palace from Division One to Division Three in the space of three years. Since he left they have come good.

He was thrown out of America. Now he is back dragging Man. City down.

He has sold a team of internationals for small fees and paid dou-

ble and triple these amounts for inexperienced unknowns. The result is shown in our current position. And our results in both Cups.

The reason for Man. City's success in the late 60's was because of Joe Mercer and not Big Mal.

Colin Bell would be the ideal man to take over the helm. He was a great player, a hard worker and knows what it takes to build a great team.

After all these years with the club Colin's heart would be in it and, besides, it's the least he deserves after all those years of loyal service.

Soccer can do with characters like Big Mal, but Man. City and the English First Division can do without him. Come on, Mal, be fair to Man. City and soccer. Step down now, before you're thrown out.

● Now read on.

. . . But should Big Mal go?

WHY is Malcolm Allison coming in for so much criticism for what he is doing? It's a good thing

when someone has the courage to stick his neck out, reorganises a team and brings some new faces into the game.

Surely it can't be a reason to sack a manager simply because his team goes down to Division Two until they grow in confidence?

Look at Nottingham Forest — they came straight up from the Second Division and won the title.

What is there to stop City doing the same when they have more experience in playing together?

I hope for the team's sake that Allison is allowed to stay and see it through.

ANDREW VEAL,
MILL HILL.

● City fans everywhere seem divided as to whether Big Mal should stay or go. Perhaps the most interesting comment came from Brian Clough, who said: "If Malcolm goes, I hope his chairman has the decency to go with him."

Fan who skips Albion

THE readers of **SHOOT** might be interested to see a photograph of one of West Brom's keenest supporters. We are fervent supporters of Albion and go to all the home matches with our mother and father.

Although our



dog Skip cannot go to the Albion matches with us, he stays at home and listens to the reports on the radio . . . dressed accordingly!

JACQUELINE & JULIE KITE,
BIRMINGHAM.

● Do other fans have photos of unusual supporters?

Cheeky Lloyd

I WAS most angry at the suggestion that the disciplinary system could be revised as a result of Larry Lloyd's ban from the League Cup Final.

The disciplinary committee chairman who gave Lloyd the one-match ban said it was the most difficult decision he had had to make.

Lloyd knew the score, so it was his own doing. Then he had the cheek to suggest he could have cheated the system by deliberately fouling someone well before the Final so he could have served his ban earlier.

What a sportsman! Some unsuspecting player could have been injured just to satisfy the whim of another. Review the system by all means, but get tougher, not softer.

ELAINE LEWIS,
SUTTON COLDFIELD.

● Funny how managers everywhere moan that their forwards receive harsh treatment and yet defend their own defenders! In Lloyd's case he was unfortunate, but your comments on his attitude are food for thought.

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Affix tokens firmly to back top half of coupon then post to: **SHOOT! FOOTBALL CRAZY** Most Exciting Player of the Year, 55 Ewer Street, London SE9 6YP. Closing date for voting is 30th April, 1980. Award winners will be announced in **SHOOT** 31st May, 1980, issue. Major prize winners in August, 1980. Unfortunately, the competition is restricted to readers in the U.K. and Eire, except employees of IPC Magazines Ltd., Smiths Food Group Ltd. (and their families), and the printers of **SHOOT**. The Editor's decision is final.

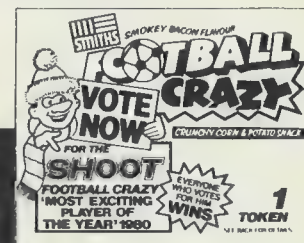
HERE'S HOW TO VOTE

Start collecting **FOOTBALL CRAZY** tokens now. Two tokens, plus the special entry form you'll find each week in **SHOOT** until issue dated 26th April, 1980, will count as one vote. In this way you can vote as many times as you like for your most exciting English or Scottish player.

State clearly in block capitals, in ink, the name of your choice on the coupon. In the box on the coupon put either an 'E' if your choice is an English League player, or 'S' if he's from the Scottish League.

Write your name and address **TWICE** in capitals, in ink, in the spaces provided.

If you wish to enter the competition, just tell us, in the space provided, in not more than 20 words, what you consider the most important qualities needed for a top League player.



I NOMINATE AS MY PLAYER OF THE YEAR

NAME

ADDRESS

AGE

NAME

ADDRESS

AGE

WHAT I THINK ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT QUALITIES NEEDED BY A TOP PLAYER

WITH the season drawing to a close Jack Charlton, manager of Sheffield Wednesday, looks like leading his club to promotion, with his inevitable critics having their opinions proved worthless.

Anyone as forthright as Charlton will automatically foster some scepticism. It never really disturbs him. His self-confidence, built during his service with Leeds under Don Revie, is unshakeable. Once he had learned what the Third Division demands, his sights were set.

Now, just in his third year at Wednesday, his well drilled players are playing gritty, direct attacking Charlton-style football. Uncompromising — learning to sweep less resilient teams aside — his team is a mixture of home reared youth and transfers from other clubs who have brought in experience and control.

He put his faith in young Bob Bolder (from Dover) in goal. Ray Blackhall from Newcastle is partnered at the back by the strong, raiding local boy Dave Grant. Alongside Brian Hornsby (Arsenal and Shrewsbury) and Mike Pickering (Barnsley and Southampton) stands another fine former apprentice Mark Smith.

Fortifies

Kevin Taylor, the latest recruit from the youth programme, fortifies the strike force in the company of Terry Curran (Southampton), Ian Mellor (Brighton) Andy McCulloch (Brentford) and Jeff Johnson (Crystal Palace).

Grant, Taylor and Smith are earning their bread as much as anyone as the drive towards the Second Division takes real shape.

It hasn't been easy for any of the players. As they slogged to follow Charlton's dictum, few escaped the frustration-born anxieties from the supporters. Now it's different. The supporters can see that Charlton has reared a team capable of beating any of the opposition and they are flocking in their thousands to Hillsborough.

As a result, Sheffield Wednesday are setting the pace. Their resolute

away performance coupled with more relaxed games at home since Boxing Day will take some beating.

The mighty stadium — soon to host the F.A. Cup Semi-Final Arsenal v Liverpool — witnesses contrasting atmospheres. On match days the supporters are livelier than they have been for years. Their steps are quicker . . . their jokes less strained. Optimism is on most faces.



During the week when the professionals are solely in attendance it's a completely different matter. As John Harris, Charlton's right-hand man who twice led neighbouring Sheffield United to promotion, told us: "Jack doesn't allow any complacency here. He has established a good blend in the team and now keeps everyone on their toes."

"When he came here he never guaranteed promotion, that would have been foolish. But he did promise everyone a lot of hard work. He keeps the pressures off the lads as much as he can. He instils confidence then keeps the pot boiling. He knew promotion with Leeds and Middlesbrough and is keeping to the same formula."

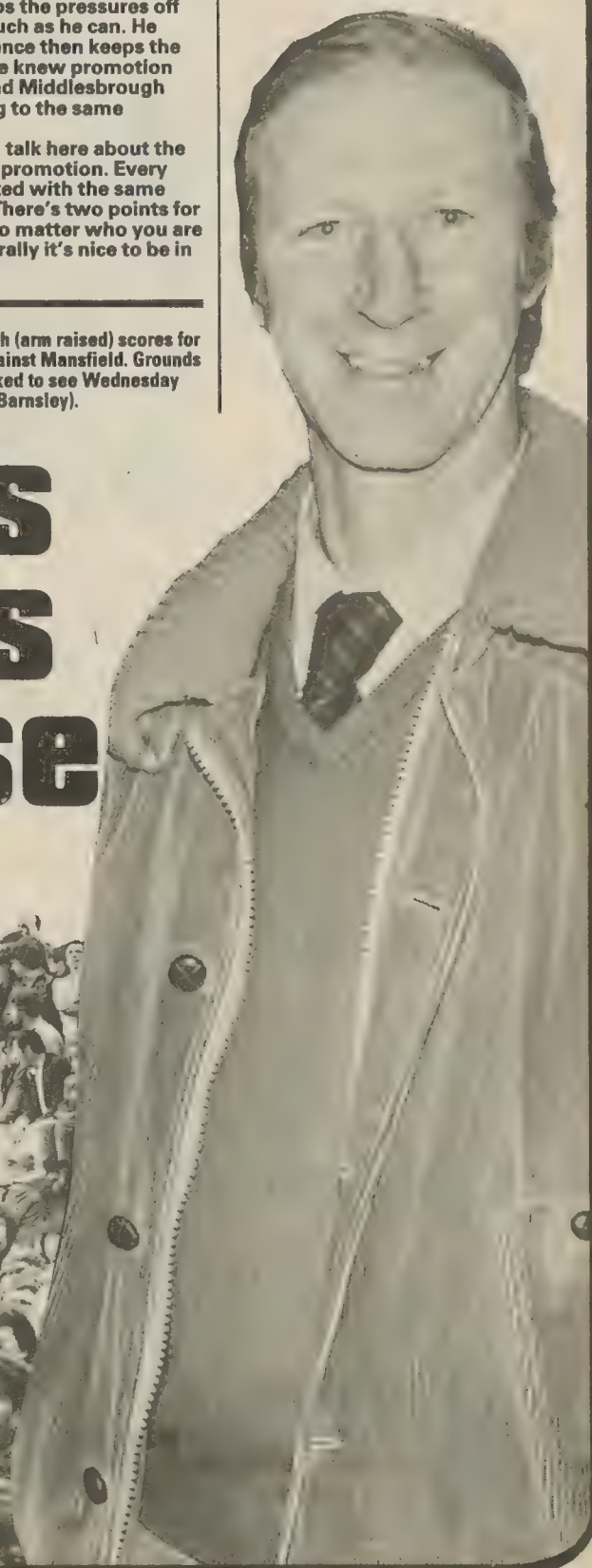
"There's no talk here about the might-be's of promotion. Every match is treated with the same importance. There's two points for every game no matter who you are playing. Naturally it's nice to be in

Andy McCulloch (arm raised) scores for Wednesday against Mansfield. Grounds have been packed to see Wednesday play (below at Barnsley).

on the kill. A few weeks ago promotion lay between nine or ten teams, now it has narrowed down to six and it's nice to be one of them.

"We know that the summit is attainable by three out of the six and value the wonderful support we get home and away. Nothing lifts a player more than the knowledge he has the support of the crowd. The message to everyone has got to be — be patient!"

Jack's kept his promise



LINE-UPS...RESULTS...SCORERS...

Saturday, February 9
(continued)

Third Division

BLACKBURN (0) 2 (Brotherston, Kendall)
BLACKPOOL (0) 0 14,446
Blackburn: Arnold; Rathbone, Branagan, Kendall, Keeley, Fazackerley, Brotherston, McKenzie, Garner, Crawford, Parkes.
Blackpool: Hesford; Gardner, Pashley, Thompson, Malone, Noble, Morris, Kellow, Jones (Smith), Doyle, Harrison.

BRENTFORD (0) 0
WIMBLEDON (0) 1 (Parsons) 7,380
Brentford: Bond; Salman, Tucker, Harding, Kruse, Fraser, Carlton (Smith), Shrubbs, Alder, Holmes (L), Phillips.
Wimbledon: Goddard; Jones, Briley, Galliers, Smith (Cork), Cunningham, Ketteridge, Parsons, Leslie, Denny, Lewington.

BURY (1) 1 (McIlwraith)
OXFORD (1) 2 (McGrogan, Foley) 3,297
Bury: Forrest; Riton, Kennedy, Waddington, Howard, Waldron, Mullen (Johnson), McIlwraith, Madden, Hilton, Halford.
Oxford: Brown; Fogg, McIntosh, Briggs, Watson, Jeffrey, Taylor, Brock (Foley), Berry, Cooke, McGrogan.

CARLISLE (4) 4 (Hamilton 2, McVitie, Beardsley)
EXETER (0) 1 (Puller) 4,085
Carlisle: Swinburne; Hoolickin, McCartney, MacDonald, Ludlam, Parker, McVitie, Bonnyman, Beardsley, Hamilton, Stanforth (Bannon).
Exeter: Main; Mitchell, Hatch, Hore, Giles, Roberts (P), Roberts (L) (Neville), Rogers (P), Bell, Delves, Puller.

CHESTERFIELD (3) 3 (Walker, Moss, Salmons)
ROTHERHAM (0) 0 9,073
Chesterfield: Kendall; Tarrt, O'Neill, Kowalski, Green, Pollard, Ridley, Moss, Walker, Salmons, Crawford.
Rotherham: Ogden; Forrest, Breckin, Rhodes, Standcliffe, Green, Gooding, Tiler, Fern, Finney (McEwan), Dawson.

MILLWALL (1) 2 (Towner pen., Lyons)
BARNLEY (1) 2 (Parker, Aylott) 5,861
Millwall: Jackson; Coleman, Roberts, Chatterton, Tagg, Blyth, Towner, Seassman, McKenna, Lyons, Kinsella.
Barnley: Pierce; Joyce, Chambers, Glavin, McCarthy, Cooper, Lester, Hunter, Parker, Banks, Aylott.

READING (2) 2 (Kearney 2)
CHESTER (0) 1 (Rush) 5,381
Reading: Death; Joslyn, White, Bowman, Heitzke, Moreline, Earles, Kearney, Kearns, Sanchez, Lewis (Wanklyn).
Chester: Millington; Jeffries, Walker, Storton, Cottam, Oakes, Sutcliffe, Jones, Rush, Phillips (Burns), Fear.

SHEFF. UTD (1) 1 (McPhail)
MANSFIELD (0) 0 14,921
Sheff. Utd: Richardson; Moore, Garner, Kenworthy, McPhail, Speight, de Goeij, Charles, Brown, Butlin, Sabella.
Mansfield: Arnold; Dawkins, Mann, Curtis, Burrows, McClelland, Pollard, Allen, Austin, Hamilton (Taylor), Miller.

SWINDON (0) 1 (McHale pen.)
SHEFF. WED (1) 2 (Johnson, Taylor) 16,415
Swindon: Allan; Lewis, Stroud, McHale, Tucker, Carter, Miller, Kamara, Rowland, Mayes, Williams.
Sheff. Wed: Bolder; Blackhall, Grant (Lowey), Smith, Pickering, Hornsby, Taylor, Johnson, Mellor, McCulloch, Curran.

GILLINGHAM v. HULL, PLYMOUTH v. SOUTHEND
postponed

Fourth Division

CREWE (0) 1 (Nelson)
ALDERSHOT (0) 0 2,187
Crewe: Grobbelaar; Wilkinson, Bowers, Hunter, Scott, Prophet, McMahon, Guy, Conroy, Palios, Nelson.
Aldershot: Johnson; Edwards, Wooler, Dixon, Bennett, Jopling (French), Crosby, Brodie, Longhorn, Needham, McGregor.

HALIFAX (1) 2 (Smith, Dunleavy)
BOURNEMOUTH (0) 0 1,929
Halifax: Kilner; Dunleavy, Hutt, Evans, Harris, Goodman, Firth, Kennedy, Allatt, Smith, Stafford (Whiteley).
Bournemouth: Smeulders; Bryant, Ferns, Chambers, Moore, Miller, Heffernan, MacDougall, Butler, Evanson, Elliott.

PETERBOROUGH (0) 0
NORTHAMPTON (0) 0 4,960
Peterborough: Waugh; Carmichael, Phillips, Guy, Slough, Foster, Quow, Kellock, Cliss, Syrett (Robson), Cassells.

Northampton: Poole; Walker, Sandercock, Byatt, Gage, Farrington, Denyer, Sandy, McCaffrey, Farmer, Sargent (Ward).

PORTSMOUTH (0) 3 (Hemmerman, Laidlaw 2)
ROCHDALE (0) 0 12,207
Portsmouth: Mellor; McLaughlin, Viney, Barnard, Aizlewood, Ellis, Gregory, Laidlaw, Hemmerman, Bryant, Purdie.
Rochdale: Watson; Hart, Taylor, Waldron, Bannon, O'Loughlin, Weir, Esser, Hilditch, Seal, Jones.



Portsmouth match-winner Joe Laidlaw

PORT VALE (0) 1 (Elsby)
HUDDERSFIELD (0) 1 (Cowling) 5,143
Port Vale: Dance; Keenan, Griffiths, Elsy, Harwood, Sproson, Beech, Farrell, Wright, Sealy, Chamberlain (N).
Huddersfield: Rankin; Brown, Purdie, Stanton, Sutton, Hanvey, Holmes, Hart, Kindon, Robbins, Cowling.

SCUNTHORPE (3) 3 (Pilling, Partridge 2)
BRADFORD C (1) 3 (Dolan pen., Dall o.g., Campbell) 2,819
Scunthorpe: Gordon; Davy, Peacock, Deers, Dall, Kavanagh, Pugh, Partridge, Pilling, Cammack, Stewart.
Bradford C: Smith; Podd, Watson, Robertson, Baines, Cooper, Dolan, Black, Campbell, McNiven, Hutchins.

TRANMERE (1) 1 (Bramhall)
LINCOLN (0) 0 2,021
Tranmere: Johnson; Parry, Mungall, Bramhall, Edwards, Evans, O'Neil, Craven, Kelly, Beamish, Peplow.
Lincoln: McManus; Ward, Neale, Shipley, Peake, Carr, Thompson, Keeley, Hartford, Cunningham, Bell.

WALSALL (0) 1 (Caswell)
DARLINGTON (0) 1 (McLean) 5,505
Walsall: Green; Macken, Mower, Sbragie, Serella, Paul, Penn, Williams, McDonough, Buckley, Caswell.
Darlington: Owers; Nattress, Cochrane, Ball, Craig, Smith, McLean, Hamilton, Stalker, Charlton, Walsh.

WIGAN (0) 1 (Corrigan)
HEREFORD (0) 1 (Burrows) 6,381
Wigan: Brown; Fretwell, Hinnigan, Gore, Methven, Davids, Corrigan, Wright, Houghton, Brownbill (Quinn), Urquhart.
Hereford: Hughes; Thomas, Burrows, Spiring, Layton, Stephens, Feeley, Marshall, Binney, Jones, White.

NEWPORT v. DONCASTER, TORQUAY v. HARTLEPOOL
postponed

Scottish Premier

HIBS (3) 3 (MacLeod 2, Murray)
MORTON (1) 2 (Thomson 2) 5,401
Hibs: McArthur; Brazil, Lambie, Paterson, Stewart, McNamara, Callaghan, MacLeod, Higgins (Hutchinson), Campbell, Murray.
Morton: Baines; Hayes, Holmes, Miller, McLaughlin, Orr, Russell, Brown, Thomson, Tolmie (Hutchison), Ritchie.

KILMARNOCK (1) 1 (Houston)
DUNDEE (1) 1 (Fleming) 4,500
Kilmarnock: McCulloch; Welsh, McLean, Clark, Clarke, McDicken, Houston (Cairney), Maxwell, Bourke, Mauchlen, Gibson.
Dundee: Donaldson; Barr, Schaedler, McLaren, Glenie, Shirra, Mackie, Miller, Fleming (Murphy), Sinclair, Redford.

PARTICK (0) 1 (Melrose)
CELTIC (0) 1 (MacLeod) 20,000
Partick: Rough; McKinnon, Whittaker, Campbell, McAdam, Anderson (Wilson), Doyle, Jardine (Gibson), O'Hara, Melrose, Park.
Celtic: Latchford; Sneddon, McGrain, Aitken, MacDonald, McAdam, Provan, Sullivan (Conroy), Lennox, MacLeod, Doyle.

ST. MIRREN (0) 1 (Conner pen.)
ABERDEEN (0) 1 (Strachan) 9,000
St. Mirren: Thomson; Young, Munro, Richardson, Fulton, Copland, Bone, Stark, Somner, McDougall (Doherty), Weir.
Aberdeen: Clark; Kenney, McMaster, McLeish, Garner, Miller, Strachan, Jarvie, Hamilton, Bell (McGhee), Scanlon (Hewitt).

DUNDEE UTD v. RANGERS postponed

Scottish First

CLYDE (1) 1 (Hood)
AIRDRIE (1) 3 (Gordon, McCulloch, McKeown) 1,200

DUMBARTON (0) 1 (McGrain)
HEARTS (0) 1 (Robinson) 4,500

HAMILTON (3) 4 (Deeney, McKay o.g., Wright, Fairlie)
BERWICK (0) 0 1,438

MOTHERWELL (1) 1 (Clinging)
ST. JOHNSTONE (1) 2 (Brogan, Goldthorp) 2,061

RAITH (0) 2 (Miller, Ballantyne)
ARBROATH (1) 1 (Yule) 1,200

STIRLING (0) 0
AYR (1) 2 (Frye 2) 1,000

CLYDEBANK v. DUNFERMLINE postponed

Scottish Second

ALBION (1) 1 (Brand)
ALLOA (0) 0 500

MONTROSE (1) 1 (Robb)
Q O S (3) 3 (Gordon, Phillips 2) 500

QUEEN'S PARK (0) 1 (Gillespie J. pen.)
FORFAR (0) 0 690

BRECHIN v. STRANRAER, COWDENBEATH v. STENHOUSEMUIR, E. STIRLING v. MEADOWSBANK
postponed.

Irish League

BALLYMENA UNITED (0) 1 (Scott)
GLENTORAN (1) 1 (Houston)
Ballymena: White; Beattie, Fox, McCulloch, Jackson, McCall, Mullan (P) (Scott), Sloan, McQuiston, Malone, Mullan (G).
Glentoran: Matthews; McCreery (Rab), Strain, Gracey, Moore, Porter, Black, McCall, Houston, Irvine, Carleton (McCreery (Ron)).

BANGOR (1) 1 (Cummings)
PORTADOWN (0) 4 (Gardiner 2, Graham, Cleary)
Bangor: Nicholson; Kennedy, McKim, Radcliffe (Montgomery), Bowden, Cummings, Lennox, McLoughlin, Harrison, McCoubrey, Duddy.
Portadown: McCollum; Smyth, Edgar, Donegan, Kilburn, Cleary, Gordon, Gardiner, Quinn, Campbell, Graham.

COLERAINE (0) 2 (Beckett (pen), Platt)
DISTILLERY (0) 2 (McMinn, McAlinden)
Coleraine: Magee; McDowell, McNutt, Beckett, Hutten, McConaghie, Mahon (Mullan), Healey, Platt, Dickson, Moffatt.
Distillery: Smyth; Andrews, McGreevey, Kestley, McIlhinney, McAuley, Kerr, Cowden, McAlinden, McMinn, Coulter.

CRUSADERS (0) 1 (Patterson)
CLIFTONVILLE (0) 0
Crusaders: McDonald; Thompson, Gorman, Mulhall, Gillespie, McPolin, Kennedy (Patterson), Currie, Byrne, King, Rice.
Cliftonville: Johnston; Mills, Largey, Flanagan, Quinn, McCurry, McCusker, Hewitt (McGuickin), McAteer, O'Connor, Holden.

GLENAVON (0) 2 (Armstrong, Davey (pen))
LARNE (1) 1 (Graham)
Glenavon: Lennox; Davey, Quinn, Sheppard, Stitt, Donnelly, McDonald, Armstrong, Kane, Tuohy, O'Kane.
Larne: Coburn; McManus, Cleland, Graham, Corland, Clarke, Hardy, Wilson, Doran, Donaghy, Higgins.

LINFIELD (1) 1 (Rafferty)
ARDS (0) 0

Liffield: Dunlop; Garrett, Hayes, Jameson, Rafferty, McKeown, Nixon, McKee, Feeney (McCurdy), Murray, Anderson.
Ards: Craig; Gibson, Cromie, Cullen, McCoy, Walker, Hewitt, Martin, Foster, Alley, Maxwell (McKenna).

Sunday, February 10

FAI Cup

(Fourth Round)

A.I.B. (0) 1 (O'Reilly)
ATHLONE TOWN (1) 4 (Devlin 2, Clarke, Davis)

A.I.B.: Wall; Daly, Moriarty, O'Reilly, Healy, Fletcher, Hopper, Moloney, Donohoe (Dunne), Dolphin, Murray.
Athlone Town: Smyth; Feniuk, McCue, Fullam, Smith (O'Connor (M)), Davis, Clarke, Wyse, O'Connor (P), O'Connor (T) (Larkin), Devlin.

C.I.E./TRANSPORT (1) 2 (Smith, Cassidy)
ST PATRICK'S ATHLETIC (1) 2 (Wright, Barron)

C.I.E.: Marshall; Maher, Collins, Madden, Pender, Kane, O'Brien, Smith (Malone), Ennis, Cassidy, McEvoy.
St Pat's Ath: Grace; Higgins, Kearney, Malone, Roche, Doyle, O'Neil (Kirwan), Wright, Jameson, Barron, Hynes.

COBH RAMBLERS (0) 0

HOME FARM (0) 0
Cobh: O'Sullivan; O'Donoghue, Wilshaw, McCarthy, O'Halloran, Marlerick, Stack, O'Neill (P) (Devine), O'Flynn, O'Leary (O'Neill (F)), McDaid.
Home Farm: Finnerty; Maher, King, Breslin, Brady, Williams, Carvi, Neville, Thomas (Craig), Archbold, McCluskey (Stephens).

CORK UNITED (2) 4 (McCarthy 2, Allen, Punch)
U.C.D. (0) 1 (Moran)

Cork Utd: Ludzik; Punch, Madden, Sheehan, Brohan, Nodwell (Waters), Keane, Neiland (Lane (J)), McCarthy, Lane (R), Allen.
U.C.D.: McCabe; Courtney, Doyle, McDonnell, Fox, McGovern, Drury, Moran, Dignam (McShane), Cassidy, Murphy (McKeown).

DROGHEDA UNITED (0) 0

LIMERICK UNITED (2) 3 (Walsh, Delamere, Ferguson o.g.)
Drogheda Utd: Forrestal; Haughey, Cameron, Campbell, Ferguson, Byrne, Freeney, Martin (Hines), Tuitt (Myers), Doran, Carthy.
Limerick Utd: Fitzpatrick; Nolan, Fitzgerald, O'Mahony, Storan, Meaney, Hand, Morris, Delamere (Kennedy), Walsh, Duggan.

DUNDALK (1) 3 (Duff, Braddish, Harkin)

FINN HARPS (1) 1 (Minnock)
Dundalk: Blackmore; McConville, Keely, Dunning, Lawlor, Flanagan, Braddish, Byrne, Duff, Muckian (Harkin), Daly.
Finn Harps: McDermott; Ferry (M), Sheridan, McDowall, Monagle, Logan, Duffy, McGroarty, McCool (Ferry (C)), Minnock, McGroarty.

SHAMROCK ROVERS (0) 0

BOHEMIANS (1) 2 (Lawless, Whelan)
Shamrock Rovers: O'Neill; Kenny, O'Leary, Synnott, Burke, Treacy, Gannon, Gaffney, Byrne, Campbell, Buckley.
Bohemians: Byrne (W), Whelan, Keogh, McCormack, Brady, Kelly, Lawless, O'Riordan, Joyce, Byrne (M), Eviston.

SHELBORNE (0) 0

GALWAY ROVERS (0) 1 (Cooke (pen))
Shelbourne: Condon; Carney, Dillon, McMahon, Moody, Cleary, Nugent, Dwyer (Boyle), Donnelly, Martin, Byrne.
Galway Rovers: Ward; Herrick, McDaid, Sheehan, Murphy, Nolan, Gaynor, Cooke, Cassidy, Quinlivan, Mannion.

SLIGO ROVERS (0) 0

TRAMORE ATHLETIC (0) 0
Sligo: Patterson; Fielding, Doherty, Fagan, Rutherford, Stenson, McLoughlin (Mannion), Patton, Bradley, Skerfington (Sheridan), Cavanagh.
Tramore: Noonan; Hartigan, O'Donovan, O'Kane, Keating (Mahon), Swain (O'Connell), Walsh, McCarthy (P), McCarthy (D), McSweeney, McCarthy (F).

THURLES TOWN (0) 0

WATERFORD (2) 5 (Kirk 2, Gardiner, Finucane, O'Mahony)
Thurles: Cawley; Doran, McQuaid, Lyons, Tierney, Heffernan, O'Brien, Lawson, Steedman (Jordan), Sheehy, Jenkins (Ryan).
Waterford: Thomas; O'Mahony, Gardiner, Finucane, Jackson, Meagan, Kirk, Madigan, Wallace, McCarthy, Murray.

LINE-UPS...RESULTS...SCORERS...

Monday, February 11

Scottish Cup

(Third Round replay)

CLYDEBANK (0) 0
STIRLING (0) 1 (McPhee) (at Falkirk) 1,200
 Clydebank: Gallacher; Gervaise, Colgan (Hall), Fallon, McCormack, McLaughlin, McIntyre, Houston (Sweeney), Miller, Given, Ronald.
 Stirling: Arthur; Nicol, Skilling, Irine (Young), Kennedy (J), Moffat, McPhee, Beaton, Kennedy (A), Gray, Armstrong.

Tuesday, February 12

U.E.F.A. Under-21 Championship

(Quarter-Final, first-leg)

ENGLAND (1) 2 (Owen, Robson)
SCOTLAND (0) 1 (Archibald) (at Highfield Road) 15,382
 England: Bailey; Wright, Sansom, Robson, Osman, Butcher, Hilaire, Hoddle, Crooks, Owen, Rix.
 Scotland: Thomson; Stewart, Dawson, Orr, McLeish, Gillespie, Wark, Blair, Archibald, Aitken, Brazil.

League Cup

(Semi-Finals, second-leg)

LIVERPOOL (0) 1 (Fairclough)
NOTTM FOREST (1) 1 (Robertson pen) 50,880
 (Forest won 2-1 on aggregate)
 Liverpool: Clemence; Neal, Kennedy (A) (Fairclough), Thompson, Kennedy (R), Hansen, Dalglish, Case, Johnson, McDermott, Souness.
 Nottm Forest: Shilton; Anderson, Gray, McGovern, Lloyd, Burns, Mills, O'Neill, Birtles, Bowyer, Robertson.

WOLVES (0) 3 (Richards 2, Eves)
SWINDON (0) 1 (McHale pen) 41,031
 (Wolves won 4-3 on aggregate)
 Wolves: Bradshaw; Palmer, Parkin, Daniel, Hughes, Berry, Hibbitt, Carr, Gray, Richards, Eves.
 Swindon: Allan; Lewis, Stroud, McHale, Tucker, Carter, Miller, Kamara, Rowland, Mayes, Williams.

Second Division

Q.P.R. (0) 0
ORIENT (0) 0
 Q.P.R.: Woods; Shanks, Gillard, McCreery, Wicks, Hazell, Waddock, Currie, Allen, Goddard, Burke.
 Orient: Day; Fisher, Roffey, Taylor, Gray, Hughton, Chiedoie, Jennings, Mayo, Margerrison, Coates.

Third Division

MILLWALL (0) 1 (Shinton)
SOUTHEND (1) 2 (Stead pen, Tagg o.g.) 7,397
 Millwall: Jackson; Coleman, Roberts, Chatterton, Tagg, Blyth, Towner, Seassman, Shinton, Lyons, Kin-sella.
 Southend: Cawston; Moody, Yates, Stead (Polycarpou), Hadley, Cusack, Gray, Pountney, Spencer, Mercer, Otulakowski.

WIMBLEDON (0) 1 (Leslie)
GILLINGHAM (0) 0
 Wimbledon: Goddard; Briley, Jones, Galliers, Smith, Cunningham, Ketteridge, Parsons, Leslie, Cork, Lewington.
 Gillingham: Hillyard; Sharpe (Funnell), Barker, Bruce, Weatherly, Crabbe, Nicholl, Hughes, Price, Duncan, Richardson.

Fourth Division

CREWE (0) 1 (Guy)
PORTSMOUTH (1) 1 (Laidlaw) 3,515
 Crewe: Grobbelaar; Wilkinson, Bowers, Hunter, Scott, Prohett, McMahon, Guy, Conroy, Palios, Nelson.
 Portsmouth: Mellor; McLaughlin, Viney, Barnard, Aiz-lewood, Ellis, Gregory (Perrin), Laidlaw, Hemmerman, Bryant, Purdie.

ROCHDALE (3) 3 (Taylor, Jones 2)
DONCASTER (1) 2 (Lister, Little) 1,516
 Rochdale: Watson; Hart, Weir, Bannan, Waldron, Taylor, Esser, O'Loughlin, Jones, Seal, Hilditch.
 Doncaster: Peacock; Russell, Snodin, Lister, Lally, Dowd, Pugh, Nimmo, Warboys, Little, Mell (Riley).

YORK (0) 2 (Faulkner 2)
HALIFAX (1) 2 (Harris, Evans) 2,124
 York: Crawford; Hood, Walsh, Pugh, Faulkner, Clements, Ferebee, Lorimer, Eccles, McDonald, McGhie.
 Halifax: Kilner; Dunleavy, Hutt, Evans, Harris, Hendrie, Firth, Kennedy, Allatt, Goodman, Smith.

Scottish Division Two: E. Stirling v Meadowbank postponed.

Wednesday, February 13

Fourth Division

LINCOLN (0) 0
NORTHAMPTON (0) 0 3,576
 Lincoln: McManus; Thompson, Neale, Shipley, Peake, Carr, Hobson, Keeley, Harford, Cunningham, Bell.
 Northampton: Poole; Walker, Sandercock, Byatt, Gage, Farrington, Denyer, Sandy, McCaffrey, Farmer, Sargent.

FAI Cup

(Fourth Round replay)

ST PATRICK'S ATH (1) 3 (Carthy 2, Daly)
CIE/TRANSPORT (2) 2 (Cassidy, O'Brien)
 St Pat's Ath: Grace; Higgins, Kearney (Daly), Malone, Roche, Doyle, Wright, Carthy, Jameson, Barron, Hynes.
 CIE: Marshall; Maher, Collins, Madden, Pender, O'Brien, Kane (Birmingham), Baker (Smith), Cassidy, Ennis, McEvoy.

Thursday, February 14

F.A.I. Cup

(Fourth Round replay)

HOME FARM (1) 2 (Archbold, Williams)
COBH RAMBLERS (0) 0
 Home Farm: Finnerty; Maher, King, Reslin, Brady, Williams, Cervi, Neville, Craig, Archbold, Murray (McCluskey).
 Cobh Ramblers: O'Sullivan; O'Donoghue, Wilshaw, McDavid (O'Neill (P)), O'Halloran, Mellerick, Stack, McCarthy, O'Flynn, O'Neill (F) (Devine), O'Leary.

Friday, February 15

Fourth Division

ROCHDALE (0) 0
PORT VALE (0) 2 (Sealy, Beech) 2,128
 Rochdale: Watson; Hart, Weir (Scaife), Bannan, Waldron, Taylor, Esser, O'Loughlin, Jones, Seal, Hilditch.
 Port Vale: Dance; Keenan, Griffiths, Elsy, Harwood, Sproson, Chamberlain (N), Farrell, Wright, Sealy, Beech.

Saturday, February 16

F.A. Cup

(Fifth Round)

BLACKBURN (0) 1 (Evans o.g.)
ASTON VILLA (1) 1 (Geddis) 29,468
 Blackburn: Arnold; Branagan, Rathbone, Kendall, Keeley, Fazackerley, Brotherston, Crawford, Garner, McKenzie, Parkes.
 Aston Villa: Rimmer; Swain, Gibson, Evans, McNaught, Mortimer, Bremner, Little, Donovan, Cowans, Geddis.

BOLTON (1) 1 (Allardyce)
ARSENAL (1) 1 (Stapleton) 23,530
 Bolton: McDonagh; Clement, Welsh, Greaves, Allardyce, Gowling, Morgan, Whatmore, Carter (Burke), Cantello, Reid.
 Arsenal: Jennings; Rice, Nelson, Talbot, O'Leary, Young, Brady, Sunderland, Stapleton, Price, Rix.



EVERTON (1) 5 (Megson, Eastoe 2, Ross pen, Latchford)
WREXHAM (0) 2 (Vinter 2) 44,830
 Everton: Hodge; Gidman, Bailey, Wright, Lyons, Ross, Megson, Eastoe, Latchford, Hartford, McBride.
 Wrexham: Davies; Darracott, Kenworthy, Davis, Jones, Fox, Vinter, Sutton (Hill), Edwards, McNeil, Carrodus.

IPSWICH (2) 2 (Burley, Wark)
CHESTER (1) 1 (Jones) 26,353
 Ipswich: Cooper; Burley, Mills, Thijssen, Osman, Butcher, Wark, Muhren, Gates, Brazil, Woods.
 Chester: Millington; Jeffries, Walker, Storton, Cottam, Oakes, Sutcliffe, Jones, Rush, Phillips, Howat.

LIVERPOOL (0) 2 (Fairclough 2)
BURY (0) 0 43,769
 Liverpool: Clemence; Neal, Kennedy (A), Thompson, Kennedy (R), Hansen, Dalglish, Case, Johnson (Fairclough), McDermott, Souness.
 Bury: Forest; Ritson, Kennedy, McLwraith, Waddington, Howard, Wilson, Halford, Johnson, Hilton (Madden), Lugg.

TOTTENHAM (3) 3 (Armstrong, Hoddle 2, 1 pen)
BIRMINGHAM (1) 1 (Bertschin) 49,936
 Tottenham: Daines; Hughton, Miller, Yorath, McAllister, Perryman, Ardiles, Falco, Armstrong, Hoddle, Villa (Pratt).
 Birmingham: Wealdens; Broadhurst, Dennis, Curbishley, Gallagher, Todd, Ainscow, Worthington, Bertschin, Gemmill, Johnston (Lynex).

WEST HAM (0) 2 (Allen, Cross)
SWANSEA (0) 0 30,497
 West Ham: Parkes; Lampard, Brush, Stewart, Martin, Devonshire, Neighbour, Pearson (Allen), Cross, Brook-ing, Pike.
 Swansea: Latheran; Robinson, Rushbury, Phillips, Stevenson, Giles, Craig, James, Charles, Toshack, Callaghan.

WOLVES (0) 0
WATFORD (0) 3 (Poskett 2, Blissett) 32,881
 Wolves: Kearns; Palmer, Parkin, Daniel, Hughes, Berry, Hibbitt (McAlle), Carr, Gray, Richards, Eves.
 Watford: Steele; Henderson, Harrison, Patching, Sims, Bolton, Blissett, Poskett, Jenkins, Train, Rostorn.

First Division

BRIGHTON (0) 0
W.B.A. (0) 0 22,633
 Brighton: Moseley; Gregory, Williams, Horton, Foster, Suddaby, McNab, Ward, Clarke, Lawrenson, O'Sullivan.
 W.B.A.: Godden; Batson (Mills), Pendrey, Moses, Wile, Bennett, Robson, Deehan, Regis, Brown (A), Barnes.

DERBY (1) 2 (Davies, Powell B)
SOUTHAMPTON (0) 2 (Watson, Baker) 16,534
 Derby: Cherry; Langan, Buckley, Powell (S) (Clark), Webb, McCaffrey, Emery, Powell (B), Biley, Davies, Emson.
 Southampton: Wells; Golac, Waldron, Baker, Watson, Nicholl, Ball, Boyer, Channon, Holmes, George.

MAN. CITY (0) 1 (Power)
LEEDS (1) 1 (Graham) 34,392
 Man. City: Corrigan; Ranson, Donachie, Henry, Caton, Booth, MacKenzie, Daley (Reid), Palmer, Power, Bennett.
 Leeds: Lukic; Cherry, Hampton, Flynn, Greenhoff, Madeley, Gray, Hird, Connor, Firm, Graham.

NOTTM FOREST (0) 2 (Robertson pen, O'Neill)
MIDDLESBROUGH (0) 2 (Burns 2) 28,889
 Nottm Forest: Shilton; Anderson, Gray, McGovern, Lloyd, Burns, O'Neill, Bowles (Bowyer), Birtles, Francis, Robertson.
 Middlesbrough: Platt; Craggs, Johnson, Hedley, Ashcroft, McAndrew, Cochran, Proctor, Hodgson, Burns, Armstrong.

STOKE (0) 1 (Irvine)
MAN. UTD (0) 1 (Coppell) 28,068
 Stoke: Fox; Evans, Dodd, Richardson, Smith, Doyle, Heath, Irvine, Cook, Crooks, Chapman.
 Man. Utd: Bailey; Nicholl, Houston, McLroy, McQueen, Buchan, Coppell, Wilkins, Jordan, Macari (Ritchie), Grimes.

Second Division

CARDIFF (0) 0
BRISTOL R (0) 1 (Williams) 6,810
 Cardiff: Healey; Grapes, Lewis, Campbell (Davis), Pontin, Thomas, Micallef, Bishop, Moore, Ronson, Stevens.
 Bristol R: Thomas; Jones, Cooper, Aitken, Taylor, Prince, Barrowclough, Williams, Penny (Emmanuel), Mabbitt, Pulis.

CHELSEA (1) 1 (Fillery)
CAMBRIDGE (1) 1 (Reilly) 17,112
 Chelsea: Borota; Locke, Sparrow (Frost), Chivers, Pates, Harris, Britton, Fillery, Langley, Walker, Johnson.
 Cambridge: Webster; Turner, Buckley, Stringer, Fallon, O'Neill, Streete, Spriggs, Reilly (Finney), Gibbins, Murray.

LUTON (3) 4 (Moss 3, Stein)
FULHAM (0) 0 9,179
 Luton: Findlay; Aizlewood, Donaghy, Grealish, Saxby, Price, Hill, West, Hatton, Stein, Moss.
 Fulham: Peyton; Peters, Strong, Money, Banton, Gale, Gayle, Beck (Marinello), Maybank, Kitchen, Lock.

ORIENT (0) 0
SHREWSBURY (0) 1 (Biggins) 4,326
 Orient: Day; Fisher, Roffey, Hughton, Taylor, Gray, Chiedoie, Margerrison, Jennings (Moore), Mayo, Coates.
 Shrewsbury: Wardle; King, Leonard, Turner, Griffin, Keay, Tong, Atkins, Biggins, Dungworth, Maguire.

PRESTON (1) 2 (Hindmarch o.g., Coleman)
SUNDERLAND (0) 1 (Brown) 12,165
 Preston: Tunks; Taylor, McAtear, Doyle, Anderson, Blackley, Bell, Coleman, Elliott, Naughton (O'Riordan), Bruce.
 Sunderland: Turner; Whitworth, Bolton, Clarke, Hindmarch, Elliott, Arnott, Marangoni, Brown (Coady), Robson, Cummins.

Q.P.R. (3) 4 (Allen 2, 1 pen, McCreery, Goddard)
OLDHAM (0) 3 (Halom, Stainrod, Kowenicki) 8,372
 Q.P.R.: Woods; Shanks, Gillard, McCreery, Hazell, Wicks, Goddard, Roeder, Allen, Currie (Waddock), Burke.
 Oldham: Platt; Wood, Holt, Kowenicki, Clements, Blair, Heaton, Halom, Steel (Keegan), Stainrod, Atkinson.

Third Division

BARNLEY (0) 1 (Glavin pen)
COLCHESTER (2) 2 (Downman, Rowles) 11,309
 Barnley: Pierce; Joyce, Chambers, Glavin, Hunter, McCarthy, Cooper, Parker, Aylott, Lester (Speedie), Banks.
 Colchester: Walker; Cook, Packer, Leslie, Wignall, Downman, Hodge, Rowles, Foley, Lee, Allinson.

BLACKPOOL (1) 1 (Fletcher)
PLYMOUTH (0) 3 (Hodges, Graves, Kemp) 3,302
 Blackpool: Hesford; Gardener, Pashley, Noble, Malone, Doyle, Morris, Kellow (Brockbank), Fletcher, Harrison, Weston.
 Plymouth: Crudgington; James, Harrison, Trusson, Foster, Philipson-Masters, Hodges, Cooper, Sims, Bason, Graves (Kemp).

EXETER (2) 3 (Delve, Hatch, Rogers)
GILLINGHAM (1) 1 (Price) 3,466
 Exeter: Main; Mitchell, Hatch, Hore, Giles, Roberts (P), Neville, Rogers (P), Roberts (L) (Bowker), Delve, Pullar.
 Gillingham: Hillyard; Sharpe, Parker, Bruce, Weatherly, Crabbe, Nicholl (Funnell), Walker, Price, Duncan, Richardson.

GRIMSBY (0) 2 (Cumming, Ford)
SWINDON (0) 0 12,675
 Grimsby: Batch; Stone, Moore (K), Waters, Wigginton, Crombie, Brolly, Kilmore (Ford), Drinkell, Mitchell, Cumming.
 Swindon: Allan; Lewis, Stroud, McHale, Tucker, Carter, Miller, Kamara, Rowland, Bates, Williams.

Arsenal's Frank Stapleton salutes his goal in the 1-1 F.A. Cup draw at Bolton.

'I dread a penalty shoot-out'

THE greatest compliment a goalkeeper can ever be paid is for people to actually expect him to save penalties.

And I always think of this whenever it's mentioned that I've never managed to stop one in a senior match since I joined Nottingham Forest.

I don't find this a particularly startling statistic and I'm sure there are plenty of goalkeepers up and down the country who can match it over the last three years.

At the same time though, I'd love to be able to change things and I reckon I am about due to save a few.

In fact, I thought the turning point had come when I saved two in a pre-season training match against Notts County — but it was not to be.

Since then I've been beaten a few times. Notably in European matches, where we have a remarkable record of conceding penalties.

In nine away games in Europe — including our Super Cup clash in Barcelona — we have let through six goals and four of these have come from spot-kicks!

And while I'm on the subject of European ties, I must confess I live

in fear of being asked to show my prowess as a penalty-stopper in the most testing way possible.

If a tie finishes level after the two legs and the away goals rule doesn't settle things, the game goes into extra-time. And after that, it's all down to a penalty shoot-out.

I've been spared that situation up to now but if I am confronted with a penalty play-off in the Semi-Finals against Ajax, I'll be employing my new approach.

Silly as it might sound, I reckon I have tried too hard to stop people scoring from the spot.

I have now decided it's much better to tell myself that they will score anyway — but I'm going to do everything in my power to make it difficult for them.

In this way, I'm sure I will feel more relaxed and that will benefit me because I will be more agile.

I'll let you know whether my system works when I have cause to use it.

Liverpool's Terry McDermott sends Shilton the wrong way from the penalty-spot in the F.A. Cup Fourth Round tie at the City Ground.



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'A warhead to blitz Europe'

IT was no surprise to return from Barcelona and discover that everyone was raving about the partnership of Trevor Francis and Tony Woodcock.

They were a match-winning duo for England in Spain and the entire world will be raving about them if they maintain that form throughout the European Championship.

I've seen more of Trevor and Tony at close quarters than most, of course, during our time together at the City Ground.

And perhaps that's why I was not too surprised to see the way they unsettled the Spaniards with their pace and ability to turn quickly.

They are attributes which can destroy any defensive system and I am sure there were a few worried international managers as the word buzzed around Europe.

Trevor and Tony will be the first to admit that the man-to-man marking of the Spanish defenders was not as effective as they are likely to face in Rome.

And I am sure they will want to point out that others in the team made things easier for them in terms of escaping their markers.

The system England are using

these days is so flexible that it is not easy for opponents to tie individual players down.

Kevin Keegan is always likely to pop up somewhere unexpected and with Steve Coppell, Ray Kennedy and even Ray Wilkins getting into the penalty-area at every opportunity, it is sure to make things difficult for defenders.

Inevitably there were some people who preferred to talk about the deficiencies of the Spanish side rather than give England credit.

They won't take us seriously until we have won in Rome but in the meantime, we are content in the knowledge that we beat Spain on their own territory — and beat them well.

It's understandable that the glory went to Francis and Woodcock. They scored the decisive goals and produced the sort of excitement spectators always want to remember.

But my special memory of Barcelona is that of a complete performance from an England team.

We had flair and excitement up-front, skill and invention in midfield and, perhaps most important of all, we were solid and reliable in defence.

'Ajax on the march again'

I WOULD have been about 13 when I stood on the terraces of Real Madrid's magnificent Bernabeu Stadium and made myself a promise.

At that time, I was with a group of lads from Blaby Boys Club in my home town of Leicester and we had gone to the stadium to take a look around.

Even though the ground was virtually deserted, it made a lasting impression on me and I told myself I would be back one day to play against Real Madrid in a European Cup match.

It's incredible that I should now be within touching distance of achieving that schoolboy dream.

Planned

This year's Final will be staged in the Bernabeu Stadium, of course, but to make it work out as I planned, my Nottingham Forest colleagues and me have to beat Ajax Amsterdam in the Semi-Finals while Real are beating Kevin Keegan's Hamburg.

To be honest, when the draw was made and we came out alongside Ajax, I didn't know how to react. People have been asking me whether it's the tie I wanted, but at this stage of the competition, what difference does it make?

You don't find bad teams in the Semi-Finals of the European Cup and, in fact, this season's final four represent an outstanding line-up.

It's been suggested that we would have been better off facing Real Madrid at this stage because we would have a greater chance of beating them over two legs than on their own ground in the Final.

That is a theory worth considering but I don't necessarily support it. And my main reason for saying this is if we are fortunate enough to be going to Madrid on May 28,

I'll fancy our chances whether we are playing Real or Hamburg.

We proved last month in Berlin that we are capable of going away in a pressure situation to get the result we require.

And it's my honest opinion that because of this, we have a better chance of taking Real Madrid on their own ground than any of the survivors in the competition.

Before I get too involved in thinking about the Final though, it's the Dutch masters from Amsterdam who must be given our full attention.

I know little about their current players but the mere thought of the club and their style of play demands the utmost respect.

It must have been a shattering blow to Ajax when, having proved themselves the best with three successive European Cup triumphs in the early 1970's, they lost Johan Cruyff and Johan Neeskens.

But they hung on to the likes of Ruud Krol to rebuild a side which is now challenging for the highest honours again.

I admire the Dutch way of playing more than any other I've seen. They brought a new dimension to the game with their 'Total Football' and while their players are technically very correct, it's an exciting style to watch.

We will need to be at our very best over 180 minutes if we are going to beat Ajax but I hope by now that people have learned not to underestimate us.

John Wilson



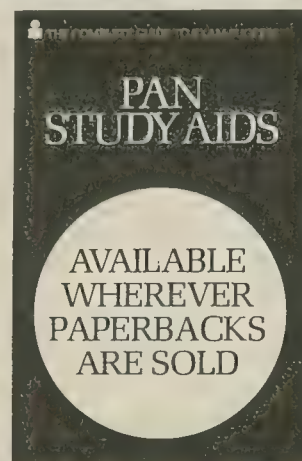
Ajax (light strip) are looking more like the great team that won the European Cup three times in succession.

No need for an action replay.



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Consecutive games

Who's played the highest number of consecutive full internationals for England?

PHILLIP HALE, WILLENHALL

● You can't beat former England skipper Billy Wright (below) there, Philip. In fact, he set up a **WORLD** record (which, as far as I can trace, has never been beaten) by playing 70 consecutive full internationals — starting with the 2-2 Highbury draw with France, on 3rd October, 1951, and ending with the 8-1 Los Angeles win over the U.S.A. on 28th May, 1959.

All told, Wright played 105 full internationals — since bettered only by Bobby Moore and Bobby Charlton — and, such was his consistency, missed only three out of England's first 107 after the last War.



Debut goals

What's the highest number of goals any player has scored on his debut in the Football League or Scottish League?

THOMAS CRIBBIN, EIRE

● Record is easily held, Thomas, by John Dyer — who scored eight goals for King's Park in their 12-2 Scottish Second Division victory over Forfar on 2nd January, 1930.

In England, it's five — by George Hillsdon, for Chelsea v. Glossop in a Second Division game on 1st September, 1906.

Final goals

What's the highest number of goals anyone has scored in an F.A. Cup Final, and which player got them?

REBECCA HEAP, DERBY

● Three is the best ever since the very first Final in 1872, Rebecca, and that record is shared by three players.

First was Townley in Blackburn Rovers' 6-1 win over Sheffield Wednesday in 1890, quickly followed by Logan

in Notts County's 4-1 defeat of Bolton in 1894.

The third — and the only one in modern times — was Stan Mortensen's threesome for Blackpool in the 4-3 win over Bolton in 1953... though some references do quote one of the three as an own-goal to Bolton's Harold Hassall.

Q.P.R. top

Have Q.P.R. ever been top of the First Division?

VANESSA OWEN, WORTHING

● They have indeed, Vanessa — and, in fact, were once within 14 minutes of finishing there as League Champions. Rangers were top several times during the 1975-76 season — and held on to that top-spot from 6th March until 4th May.

They completed their own programme with a 2-0 win over Leeds on 24th April — one point ahead of game-in-hand Liverpool.

The Reds' last game, at Wolverhampton, was held over until 4th May — when, with only 14 minutes to go, Wolves held a 1-0 lead.

Then, in typical Liverpool style, Keegan, Toshack, and Kennedy all struck to clinch a 3-1 win — and so, at the last gasp, pip Q.P.R. for the title by 60 points to 59.

SHORT PASSES

● Paul Mariner has scored one goal in his five full internationals for England.

(ALUN JONES, Sierra Leone)

● Bobby Charlton (198 goals) is Manchester United's top aggregate League scorer.

(CHRIS HUNTER, Co. Tyrone)

● Cardiff's highest-ever end-of-season League placing was runners-up in Division One in the 1923-24 season.

(ANDREW WATSON, South Wales)

● Leeds United's most-capped player is Billy Bremner with 54 full internationals for Scotland.

(RICHARD O'MAHONEY, Eire)

● Fulham's first League game was a 1-0 home defeat by Hull in Division Two on 3rd September, 1907.

(MARTIN ROGERS, London ECI)

● Alan Ball scored eight goals in his 72 full internationals for England.

(CLAIRE FOSTER, Eastleigh)

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IT'S been a long time since the name Northampton Town meant much in the world of football.

They flirted briefly with the big-time in the mid-1960's when they caused a sensation by gaining a place in the First Division.

They reached there after one of the most astonishing climbs of all time — going from **FOURTH** to **FIRST** Division in the space of five years!

Life at the top quickly went sour. They lasted just one season among the elite before plummeting back to the basement almost as quickly as they had risen from it.

And there they have stayed ever since — this friendly little club who share their ground with Northants County Cricket Club.

Clive Walker



NORTHAMPTON ON THE WAY UP AGAIN



Northampton (dark shorts) narrowly lost 1-0 to Brighton in the League Cup.

a 6ft 4½in giant whose motto is 'they shall not pass'.

Gage came from United Counties League side Desborough for a paltry £3,000.

Another big success has been Adam Sandy, a midfield player who was still playing for a local Sunday side when he forced his way into the Northampton team. He has now signed professional.

And Keith Bowen — son of Cobblers secretary Dave, the former Welsh international — manages to combine a career in accountancy with scoring regularly in the Fourth Division.

Walker's efforts in tearing Northampton inside out and building a team that went shooting up the table were rewarded when he was named Fourth Division manager of the month for February.

It was a fitting accolade for a man who is doing one of the toughest jobs in football without complaint.

"I was aware that if I wanted new faces here, and there was a desperate need for them, I would have to scour the non-League circuit to find them," says Walker.

'Battle'

"I've brought the average age of the side down drastically by packing the team with kids. They are all local lads as well and battle like mad for a club they have pride in.

"We left our effort too late for promotion this season. Now we must all aim to build on what we have achieved and hope to get out of the Fourth Division next time."

We hold the view that initiative should be rewarded. Few people in the game are showing as much as Clive Walker.

It would be nice if he earned a little glory by steering Northampton back to better things. All the signs are that he will do it.

So make a note of the name Clive Walker. We are sure you will be hearing more of it.

HEARTS' young goalkeeper John Brough must have thought he had walked into a nightmare world when he got a sneak preview of what life will be like in the Premier Division.

He was facing up to Rangers in the Scottish Cup Quarter-Final tie at Ibrox and he left the pitch having conceded six goals.

Brough, who has fought his way into the Tynecastle first team at the expense of former Scotland international 'keeper Thomson Allan, says: "Yes, it was tough at Ibrox."

"We got off to a perfect start when Tom Forsyth sliced a right wing cross from Cammy Fraser into his own net in under two minutes and for a while they were upset, but when they got into their stride it made it one of the busiest afternoons of my career."

Brough was left helpless when a low shot from Davie Cooper

Former Newcastle and Sunderland stalwart Bobby Moncur moved into the Hearts' hot-seat from Carlisle in the English Third Division and he, too, must have suffered along with Brough and the other Hearts players as their deficiencies were cruelly exposed by Rangers in that humiliating Cup-tie.

"What can you say after a game like that?" asked Moncur. "We lost 6-1... that says it all."

Moncur, though, will have to come up with some better answers if such thrashings are not to become commonplace. Certainly John Brough learned a thing or two about the rigours of Premier Division football at Ibrox.

Yet even out of such adversity, Brough believes he is a better player for the experience. At least he will now know exactly what to expect if and when Hearts gain promotion this season.

BROUGH'S NIGHTMARE

zoomed past a static defence for the equaliser and then Sandy Jardine put him the wrong way with a penalty-kick to put Rangers ahead. Bobby Russell hit the third before John MacDonald joined in with two headers to hoist the score to 5-1 and just on full-time Brough's misery was completed when Derek Johnstone walloped in the sixth from six yards.

Since the start of the season Hearts' main objective has been to earn promotion and the Tynecastle board are so determined to be successful that they sacked former Scotland supremo Willie Ormond... while the team were top of the League!

"That must be unique," said Ormond. "The team in the lead of the First Division and the manager still getting the axe. I wonder if that's ever happened before!"

"You've got to put games like that behind you," says Brough. "We were hammered and that's the end of it. There's no use in talking of what might-have-been."

"It let us see quite a lot of things. I know that sort of pressure and strain is constant in the top ten, but that's what football is all about."

Brough believes if you don't want to compete then you should forget all about dreams of success. He knows you have to work hard for everything that comes your way in the game. "We have done well in the League this season," he says. "We are not going to let one result destroy our confidence."

The fair-haired youngster needed patience and courage to oust Thomson Allan from the number one spot. He will certainly need these two valuable assets in the future.

John Brough gathers safely from Ayr United's Eric Morris (white shirt).



Gemmell keeps trying



IF at first you don't succeed, try, try again... that must surely be the motto of determined Dundee manager Tommy Gemmell.

Gemmell is to be applauded for his efforts in trying to remodel and reshape the Dens Park side into the force they were in the early 60's, but he admits he is a couple of players short in completing the jigsaw and one position he is desperate to fill is centre-half.

But Tommy found it easier to score goals from 30 yards when he was a player with Celtic, Nottingham Forest and Dundee than he is currently discovering it is to buy a new pivot.

He made a £100,000 bid for Celtic's Roddie MacDonald along with the offer of a lucrative contract. The Parkhead club were on the verge of selling, but the player decided to stay with the Champions and Gemmell was forced to look elsewhere.

The likeable Dundee boss has watched Scotland's Under-21 stopper Jim McNichol, of Brentford, and there could be a possibility of a move sometime in the future. But another would-be deal that bit the dust was for former Scots centre-half Jim Holton, on the transfer list at Coventry City.

Gemmell was eager to bring the uncompromising ex-Manchester United giant — a great favourite with the Scottish fans — to Dens Park, but the initial interest seemed to fade away.

"I'm always interested in players whom I think can do a job for this club," says Gemmell. "I've looked at hundreds of players in the past year or so. I've made enquiries for a few. You should see my telephone bill — it's astronomical!"

"Dealings in the transfer market are all part and parcel of being a manager. It's hard work, but I enjoy it. I honestly didn't realise being a team boss was so difficult. There is just no comparison between being a player and a manager."

"I never get the opportunity to switch off. I've travelled all over the place looking at players to see if they measure up to what I want at Dens Park."

"Sure, it's disappointing when it looks as though a transfer deal is all set up and suddenly it falls down, but that's football. You

have got to take the good with the bad."

Gemmell has completely rebuilt the side he inherited from Davie White, the former Rangers and Clyde boss who is now out of football altogether and working with a car sales firm in Glasgow.

Although Gemmell was unsuccessful in enticing Roddie MacDonald away from Celtic he was successful in two other ventures. He paid a paltry £30,000 for the stylish Peter Mackie and he picked up winger Jimmy Murphy on a free transfer.

Both have added a lot to the side in recent months and Mackie, in particular, is looking like the bargain of the season. The player, though, has one complaint... people keep comparing him with Kenny Dalglish!

'Imitate'

"It gets annoying at times," says Mackie. "Fans seem to think I am trying to imitate the Liverpool player, but I don't, of course. Everything I do is natural."

"We are built along similar lines, have blond hair and used to play for Celtic, so I suppose the comparisons might be inevitable."

"I admire Kenny, of course, but I don't try to copy him. He has fabulous skill and talent and I love to watch him in action, but that's the end of it. It might be a compliment, though, to be compared with him, but I want to be known as the FIRST Peter Mackie and not the second Kenny Dalglish."

Mackie is certainly winning praise with his natural ability and Murphy, too, has fans baffled as to why he was given a free transfer from Parkhead.

Celtic fans got their first glimpse of him as a teenager a few years ago when he came on as a second-half substitute in a 4-1 victory over Manchester United in a testimonial for Jimmy Johnstone and Bobby Lennox.

His career, however, didn't quite take off and now he is picking up the pieces and showing the sort of form that made him such a promising left-winger not that long ago.

Tommy Gemmell can look at these two players and realise that the running around the country checking on players is worthwhile!

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TONIC FOR SCOTS

SCOTLAND'S fine 4-1 win against Portugal at Hampden Park, in their final European Championship Group Two match, came too late to book a place for Italy in June, but the signs were there that Jock Stein's men are on their way back.



Aberdeen's Steve Archibald (above, left) had a dream debut in the full side when he came on as a second-half substitute for Kenny Dalglish and scored Scotland's third goal. Dalglish (right) is foiled by Portugal 'keeper Bento, but the Liverpool striker did score Scotland's first goal. An exciting combination was forged between Dalglish and Wolves' Andy Gray (below, centre). Britain's most expensive player had a fine game and capped his recall to the international side with an opportunist goal in the first-half.





Ondrus (right) hopes to lead the Czechs to further glory.



Czechoslovakia manager Jozef Venglos (red top) has been worried by his side's away form.

'ONLY THE GERMANS CAN BEAT ITALY'

No.1

ANTON ONDRUS

Czechoslovakia

SHOOT: Half the Czech players who helped win the 1976 European Championship are still in the team, but do you think you are as strong overall as you were four years ago?

ONDRUS: It is difficult to judge, but I think we can be as strong this year, though we are playing a little differently now. In Yugoslavia, in 1976, all our players played at peak form and at that time our play was based on an absolutely tight defence, with goalkeeper Ivo Viktor magnificent. Now we are trying to keep possession more in midfield and go forward with skilful and precise combinations. One thing has not changed however, and that is our fighting spirit.

SHOOT: Zdenek Nehoda has scored a lot of important goals for Czechoslovakia but he has been out of the game a lot this season. What is his problem, and will he play in Italy?

ONDRUS: Nehoda was unlucky with injuries in 1979. He was carried off with an ankle injury in our qualifying game with France in

Bratislava last April and was out for weeks. Then in the autumn he had muscular trouble. He is fully fit again now and played well on our tour of Australia, scoring five goals.

SHOOT: You seem to rely on Nehoda getting vital goals. Do you have any other striker who can shine in Italy?

ONDRUS: It would be a tragedy for us if Nehoda was injured and unable to play in any of the games in Italy. He is a rarity in Czech football because we generally lack forceful strikers like him. We have no really suitable deputy for Nehoda, but our right winger Marian Masny is also a scorer. He got five goals in our European Championship qualifying matches.

SHOOT: What do you think of the new England team and do you think Czechoslovakia can improve on their 1978 1-0 defeat at Wembley if they meet England in Italy?

ONDRUS: Obviously England are much better than they were two or

three years ago. I missed the game at Wembley in November, 1978, because I had a car crash just before the team left Prague. I would fancy our chances against England in June and I would be glad to meet England. In my opinion the result would be '50-50'.

SHOOT: Do you think England can beat Italy and win the European Championship?

ONDRUS: England are almost unbeatable at Wembley, especially just now when they have such a good side. Away from Wembley I have doubts about England's performances. I would bet on England to win the competition if it were played in London, Birmingham, Manchester or Liverpool, but I don't think they can do it in Turin or Rome.

SHOOT: Do you think you have been placed in the most difficult group with West Germany and Holland? And who do you think will reach the Final from your group — if not Czechoslovakia?

ONDRUS: Our group is a little more difficult, but being realistic you cannot expect to meet easy opponents among the best eight

teams in Europe. Holland obviously have a very strong side, but I would be a bad captain if I did not think we can beat them all and qualify. Looking at it honestly I must say that I think the Germans have the best chance to reach the Final, but they will not beat us without a real struggle.

SHOOT: Who is your tip for the two teams to reach the Final in Rome, and who do you think will play-off for third place?

ONDRUS: I am really terrible at forecasting results even in League games, and I would not dare do it

Continued overleaf



Marian Masny

in this case! Many of the teams that have qualified are very good and I think the results will depend on which teams reach peak form in June. A lot of people in Czechoslovakia think the Final will be between Italy and West Germany — but football is a funny game and I would not be surprised at anything.

SHOOT: Your first game, against West Germany, looks critical for your hopes. How have you got on against them when you have played, and do you think you can beat them?

ONDRUS: I have only played against the Germans twice, but I am 30 and perhaps this will be my last big competition, so I am determined to do well against them. We beat the Germans in the 1976 European Championship Final in Belgrade, drawing 2-2 and then winning on penalties. In 1978 I played against the Germans again and we lost 3-4, but I must say this was probably the best game played in Czechoslovakia for some years, really very good and both sides equally balanced. I know West Germany have a very strong team and that Jupp Derwall can choose from more excellent players than our manager Jozef Venglos can. But I still believe we can beat them. Who would have thought that we could have beaten Holland in the Semi-Final in 1976 when they had an outstanding team that included Johan Cruyff, Johan Neeskens and many other good players?



A successful tour of Australia earlier this year (above, right) resulted in another trophy for the Czechs (above).

SHOOT: Italy have not been playing well in the last year it seems. Do you think their 1978 World Cup team has been kept together for too long?

ONDRUS: We met Italy after the last World Cup in Bratislava, in the autumn of 1978. In that game the Italian players seemed to me to be a little tired and though we won 3-0, they still managed to give us a very tight battle and, being honest, I did not think we were three goals better. I have not seen Italy play since then so cannot comment on their strengths or qualities. I am



sure Signor Bearzot will turn out a team that is very strong and has a lot of good players.

SHOOT: In the 1976 Championship the Czech team being Slav, was supported by the Yugoslav fans. How do you think the Czech team will be affected by the climate in Italy and by the home fans who can be quite fanatical?

ONDRUS: The weather in Rome could be a problem for us, specially because we play our first two games in the afternoon. If this will suit the Greek players, I don't think we will be affected any more than the Dutch or Germans. We may not meet Italy when the fans will be at their most fanatical, and I don't think the Italians will be bothered about our game, for example, with Holland. In any case, I, personally, enjoy the noisy atmosphere and the electric feelings of big matches because I think it helps me to play better.

SHOOT: Czechoslovakia have not played at their best away from home in recent years, for example in Wrexham, Glasgow and Paris. Do you think your team has improved now in this respect?

ONDRUS: Playing away from home has been a problem for years in Czechoslovakia, even in our own League games. Only a few of our clubs play the same away as they do at home, and many of our players seem to lose their courage and confidence when travelling. This is still true of our national team, but Mr Venglos is trying to improve this aspect of our game. For this reason he has arranged games for us away to Switzerland, Spain and the Republic of Ireland before we

go to Italy. One more important thing, too; seven of the eight teams in Italy will be playing away. Only the Italians will be at home!

SHOOT: Many referees in Italy have been widely criticised and sometimes they are affected by partisan fans and other factors. Do you think this will be a problem for the visiting seven teams?

ONDRUS: I don't think so in a competition this important. There will be many foreign visitors there, and, of course, many officials of both F.I.F.A. and U.E.F.A. The matches will be seen on television all over the world and will be controlled by the best officials in Europe. I do not think that they can afford to be seen to be incorrect over any matter.

SHOOT: Italy have only been beaten at home twice in the last 20 years. If anyone is going to beat them in the big competition, who do you think it is most likely to be?

ONDRUS: Playing at home is a great advantage in football and it will be still greater in the case of Italy. I would like to think that we have a good chance if we meet them, but deep in my heart I think only West Germany can beat Italy in Italy. In football it can happen that if the home team does not please the fans in some small way, they could turn against their team. If that happened the role of favourite could become a burden for the Italian players then, and that would nullify home advantage. As I said earlier, anything can happen in game like football, and with a little luck perhaps we could do it if we reach the Final or meet them in the third place game.

Zdenek Nehoda will play a vital role in Italy.



Czechoslovakia after beating West Germany in the 1976 Final.

Real Madrid v. their reserves in Cup Final?

THE normally dull Spanish Cup competition suddenly burst into life in the Sixth Round. No fewer than four Madrid sides clinched places in the last eight, including Real Madrid's nursery side, Castilla, who pulled off a shock 2-1 victory away to Athletic Bilbao after being held 0-0 at home in the first-leg.

Up till this stage, Real and Castilla had been deliberately kept apart in the draw, but the authorities are now terrified that the League Champions may meet their reserves in the Final, and are praying for someone to knock Castilla out!

Meanwhile, Sporting Gijón's 3-2 aggregate victory over Valencia was a stormy affair. Alfredo di Stéfano's team arrived in Gijón to find their hotel surrounded by armed police, and discovered that an anonymous caller had threatened to kidnap one of their star players.

The match was also stormy — especially when referee Guruceta allowed Valencia to equalise while Gijón 'keeper Castro was lying unconscious in the goalmouth with a head wound. During the following melee he showed the red card to Gijón's manager Novoa!

Things were even worse in the

all-Second Division battle between Alavés and Valladolid. When the visitors equalised, part of the crowd invaded the pitch, and play was held up for seven minutes while order was restored. Then a linesman was hit by a bottle and needed 15 stitches in a head wound. Valladolid qualified for the Quarter-Finals on penalties after Alavés had somehow managed to miss four out of five, and the visitors took over an hour to reach their bus under comprehensive police protection.

Fortunately there was no violence in San Sebastián, where Real Sociedad continued their excellent run by knocking out mighty Barcelona. Their new manager, Helenio Herrera, planned one of his typical 'catenaccio' nine-man defences to try and hold on to Barcelona's 2-1 lead from the first-



leg ... and lost 3-0!

Barcelona are now in serious danger of not qualifying for any of the European competitions next season for the first time in the club's history.

Laure Cunningham could be playing for Real Madrid against the club's nursery side Castilla.



Czech coup

DR JOZEF Venglos (above), manager of Czechoslovakia, has pulled off a coup. On a trip to Italy he persuaded Italian League leaders Internazionale to let the Czechs use their luxurious hotel complex and training ground at Pineto di Appiano Gentile for the European Championship. The Czechs will take their own chef, but the players will not get wine with their meals as the Inter players do ... only mineral water and fruit juice.

Food for thought

THE Independiente club of Potosi in Bolivia are so behind with their players' salaries that the players have gone on hunger strike.

And things have become so serious that the wives are threatening to join in. The club have desperately tried to get a bank loan, but up to now all requests have been refused.

ONE of Spain's 1982 World Cup centres, Zaragoza, is considering withdrawing only 26 months before the Finals kick-off. The authorities are opening a public enquiry following doubts about the city's ability to carry out all the work required, and whether the £2 million budgeted wouldn't be better spent elsewhere.

WITH only 11 games left for each club to play in the Czech First Division six of the 16 clubs have yet to win an away game. So far this season only 0.13 per cent of all League games have been away wins.



ARGENTINIAN club Newell's Old Boys recently did a revealing experiment during their home game against Boca Juniors. The directors had been suspecting that ticket sales didn't correspond exactly with the number of fans in the ground, so they monitored the attendance pretty thoroughly before the Boca game. They found that 24,408 tickets had been sold and that 33,983 had entered the ground through the 16 gates!

Brotherly love!

MEXICAN police recently thwarted an attempt to kidnap the president of Unión de Curtidores, a First Division side. They later discovered that the attempt had been set up by the president's own brother!



Action from the Australian Ampol Cup Final at Olympic Park, Melbourne, when Essendon (dark shirts) beat Heidelberg 2-1.

News flashes

- Bayern Munich are 80-years-old. "We'll celebrate after we've won the title this season," said their president. During their history, the Bavarians have supplied 35 players for the national team.
- Francesco Graziani (below) isn't signing for Stuttgart after all. His "problems with Italian football" were "suddenly" cured when Torino offered him an improved contract and the club captaincy.



- Incredible situation in the Greek League, which looks like boiling to a sensational climax. With nine matches left to play four teams (PAOK Salonika, Olympiakos, Aris Salonika and Panathinaikos) are level on points at the top, with AEK

Athens just one point behind. And Ethnikos, in sixth place, are just two points behind the four leaders with a game in hand!

- Huracán of Buenos Aires recently ran up a 12-0 win in a friendly against Gutiérrez Sport Club in Mendoza: 8-0 up at half-time, they rapidly hit four more after the break — at which point the electronic scoreboard flashed up a plea "NO MORE GOALS PLEASE". Huracán duly obliged and 'declared' at 12.

- As an experiment the Czechs did not televise any games live for the first two rounds of their Spring campaign. But for the first weekend the eight First Division games attracted only a total of 46,348 cash customers and the following weekend it was only 49,484 — an average of just over 6,000.

- European Championship outsiders Greece pulled off a coup when national team manager Alketas Panagoulas persuaded Argentina to play Greece in Athens during their European tour. The only snag is that the tourists'

only free date is May 21st ... which means putting off the Greek F.A. Cup Final for three days. Imagine the English F.A. doing that for anyone!

- The big match in Holland, Ajax/Feyenoord, wasn't televised. Technicians went on strike after one of them was attacked by a supporter. Ajax captain Ruud Krol (below) missed the match;



he was serving a one-game suspension (his first ever) after receiving three yellow cards.

- The 1980 Russian season began with 49 First and Second Division clubs playing F.A. Cup games in groups. Holders Dynamo Moscow got a bye into the last 16 when the knockout stage begins and the Final will be in Moscow on 9th August.

HOW TO MAKE ENDS MEAT

IN Uruguay, Rentistas were keen to sign midfielder Daniel Allende from Central Español, but they couldn't raise enough cash for the deal. Finally the clubs agreed to exchange Allende for 550 sides of beef 'paid' in instalments of 25 per week.

The player didn't beef about his unusual deal, even though his club were giving him the chop and his new team-mates were ribbing him about it. Allende now claims to be the player with the biggest steak in his future ...

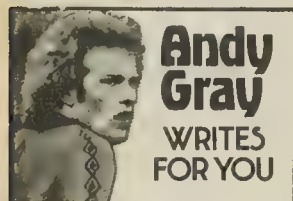
BAYERN Munich have become so frustrated with airline delays that they have invested in a private jet that they will use for travel to away games both in Germany and playing abroad.

I thought score'

rang my wife, Vanessa, and she decided to fly up to see the match with my family.

Mr. Stein said in the Press that he thought the game might be too much for me, but I was determined to show him that I could do a job for Scotland. Looking back, I believe I was correct in pulling out of those earlier squads. I was more than happy with my performance and scored one of my best ever goals . . . possibly even the best.

It was a help having Jim McLean, Scotland's assistant manager, with



the squad. Jim was my manager at Dundee United and I hold him in the highest esteem. He taught me so much about the game and helped me a great deal in my early years. We've kept in touch regularly and he had a few words of advice for me.

I was more nervous than I'd been for a long time before the game. Scoring is easier said than done, and while the pressure was off Scotland in terms of the European Championship, the fans were looking for something special from Kenny Dalglish and myself.

Our record together is good and I was delighted when we both got on the scoresheet against Portugal. My own goal was well worth waiting for, from my point of view. Alex McLeish won the ball, slid it

through to me in the inside-left position and I raced for goal. It was their captain, I think, who chased me, and either he's slow or I've speeded up because he had to grab my sleeve in an effort to stop me. He didn't, and my first thought was to chip the 'keeper, but he didn't 'come' so I decided to let rip. When the ball hit the back of the net, all the waiting seemed worthwhile.

It was a shame Kenny limped off just after half-time, but he'd done a great job in helping me back into international football. Who better to play alongside than Scotland's most-capped player? If you asked me Kenny's qualities, I'd simply say that everything he does, he does well and I look forward to many more goalscoring matches with him.

Outstanding

Of course, the most important factor was that Scotland won and played some outstanding soccer in doing so. Our back-four was never flustered, not resorting to the hopeful long punt out of defence.

Jock Stein is trying to make Scotland's style more in keeping with the 80's, less blood and thunder, more technical 'total football'. I'm sure he was pleased that four different players netted as he wants all his outfielders to be involved in goals.

There were very few balls played to me in the air . . . gone is the day when a cross was aimed for the centre-forward with everyone's fingers crossed. Do you know I haven't headed a goal since I left Aston Villa? I still make full use of my ability in the air, but in a differ-



"What a return! Scoring against Portugal at Hampden Park."

ent way. At Wolves we don't have a winger, or even a midfielder who plays wide, although with John Robertson on the wing for Scotland I couldn't ask for a better crosser of the ball.

Scotland are now prepared to play patient football, waiting for an opening, rather than pass it twice and kick it towards the penalty-area. The ball was hardly in the air against Portugal.

It was an important victory as we play Portugal in the World Cup later this year and we now have the psychological advantage. We know we can beat them and they know we can win.

Praise

They're not a bad side, mind you, and to score four past one of Europe's 'middle class' teams is as much as anyone can expect. Portugal don't concede four very often.

A word of praise for Archie Gemmill, who had a fabulous game as captain. Since Billy Bremner retired, Scotland haven't really had a leader, but in my book Archie is top-class. Any of the young lads in the squad would do well to copy Archie's attitude and I wouldn't be surprised if the Birmingham midfielder led Scotland in the World Cup campaign.

Jock Stein said this was the first time he'd been able to call upon all the players he wanted and he was happy with the way we played.

We all realise one good result doesn't make a team great, and we must look to improve our away form drastically. It was encouraging, however, and gives us confidence for the British Championship.

That will be very interesting this

season. Wales and Northern Ireland have new managers, England are on their way to Italy . . . yes, the tournament will be even more keenly-contested than usual.

I hope I can fulfil another ambition by playing against England. To a Scotsman it doesn't matter whether this it at Hampden or Wembley: at Hampden there are 85,000 Scots and at Wembley there are also 85,000 Scots!

This Saturday (April 12th) we are at home to Manchester City and despite our guarantee of UEFA Cup football next season, we want to finish as high in the League as possible. The pressure isn't on us in this respect and since our League Cup win we've chalked up some good results. A far cry from the fight against relegation of a year ago . . .

Unfortunately it's City's turn to battle against the drop this time. Malcolm Allison has made a lot of team changes at Maine Road, but I am sure that once these newcomers adjust to each others styles, they will be a force to be reckoned with once again.

I don't think City will be relegated, but we will not be doing them any favours this week if we beat them.

Join me in a fortnight.



"Kenny Dalglish is a fabulous player to play alongside."

Wembley

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FIGHTER SLOUGH

At the age of 32 most footballers accept they have reached the end of the road and start to worry what the future has in store for them.

Not Alan Slough. He has reached that 'dreaded' milestone now — but is convinced he can go on for three years yet.

In fact Slough is now playing so well in the centre of Peterborough's defence there is a strong possibility he will finish his career higher up the ladder than the Fourth Division.

Slough believes he is still good enough for a higher grade of football. One or two leading managers share that belief — so there could yet be a fairy-tale ending for a likeable player whose career seemed over less than a year ago.

Slough's livelihood was threatened by an Achilles injury that kept him out of action for several months.

The injury was immobilised in plaster and every time Alan attempted to play again he broke down.

It was an experience to test the patience of anyone. Lots of other people — faced with the same heartbreaking problems — would probably have given in to it and accepted their careers were over.

But Slough is not made that way. He is a fighter and was determined to overcome it and get back in action. And it will be no surprise to anyone who knows him that he succeeded.

Slough returned to first team action at the start of December. Instead of his customary midfield role he dropped in at the back, playing alongside the centre-half.

He took to the position like a duck to water and helped bring about a remarkable transformation in a side previously struggling.

Posh were out of the F.A. Cup and the threat of having to apply for re-election hung over them as Christmas approached.

The return of Slough soon changed all that and by March vastly improved Posh were on the fringe of the promotion race.

With typical modesty Slough plays down his part in that effort. But there is little doubt that his ability and experience had a lot to do with it.

"It did not surprise me that I settled in so well as a central defender, because it is a position I

have always wanted to play in," he explained.

"My one big regret was I did not establish myself there several years ago. If I had I believe I could have achieved a lot more in the game.

"But I'm a born optimist and perhaps it's still not too late. Who knows what the future may hold for me?"

If Alan had been the selfish type he could have insisted on playing in defence from the start and really made a big name for himself.

He started his career with Luton, helping them climb from Fourth to Second Division in double quick time, and was playing left-back in the early days.

But he also proved himself a more than useful midfield player, with the vital asset of being able to score a few goals.

When Alec Stock left Luton to take over at Fulham, Slough was one of

the first players he signed.

And it was at Craven Cottage that Alan achieved the highlight of his career — an F.A. Cup Final appearance at Wembley, in the Fulham team that lost 2-0 to West Ham in 1975.

Big changes were to follow at Fulham. Stock went, so did chief coach Bill Taylor, the entire board — and TEN of that Cup Final team.

John Barnwell — Wolves miracle worker today — was then in charge at Peterborough and he must rate the £25,000 he paid for Slough as among the best money he ever spent.

Know-how

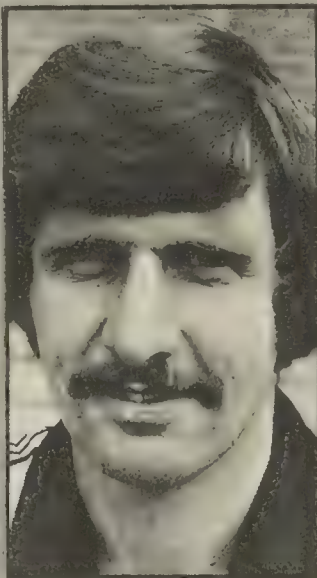
Slough — holder of an F.A. Badge — helped to coach the youth team, as well as using his midfield know-how to take Posh to the brink of the Second Division two years ago.

Preston pipped them for promotion on goal difference.

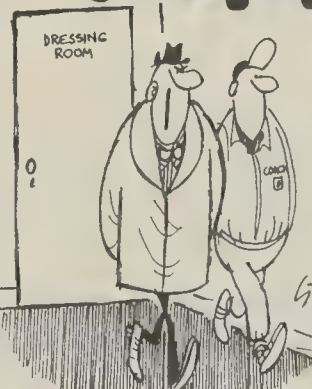
Then Barnwell — frustrated at not having money available to strengthen the team — resigned, the injury bug struck Slough ... and Posh were relegated.

Now, with Peter Morris at the helm, they seem to be on the way back and the return of Slough accelerated their revival.

We hope Slough achieves his ambition of going on for at least three more years and tastes the glory of playing at the very top.



FOOTBALL FUNNIES



"And when I asked them what it was that Liverpool have that we haven't, they all shouted 'top management'."



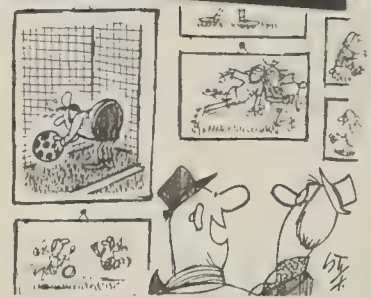
"Here comes the incident where you bravely stood between those two players."



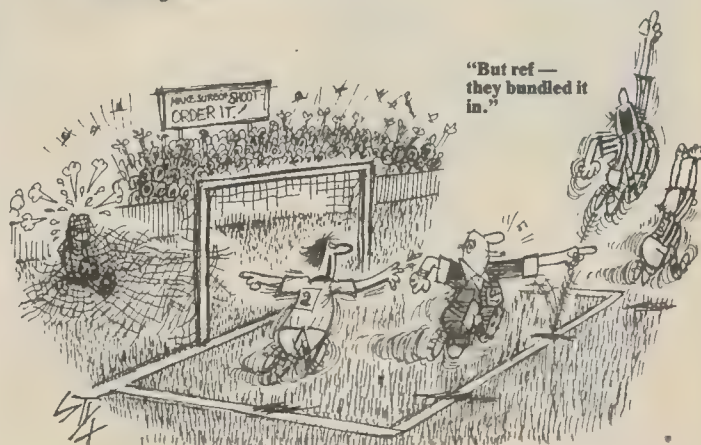
"I'm gonna wear these to protect my eyes against the dazzling display of football you're going to turn on to avoid relegation."



This week Martin O'Neill, who skippered Northern Ireland for the first time against Israel in a World Cup tie, selects the jokes specially drawn by our cartoonist Styx.



"Bet you never thought a picture of you in action would win the Press photographer's award of the year."



"But ref — they bundled it in."

THERE aren't many players who ask their managers to drop them.

You'll find plenty begging for another chance after a right stinker but volunteering for the reserves? Surely not.

Well it happened at Bolton this season when Alan Gowling asked to be left out of the first team.

Cynics might say that anyone would like to be left out of Bolton's doomed side but Gowling had only the best intentions when he made his decision.

He says: "It was already obvious that we would be going down and I hadn't been having a particularly great season so I thought it fair that some of the youngsters should be given a chance.

"Even though they'll be in Division Two next season it will do them a lot of good to get some First Division experience."

Gowling, though, didn't stay in the reserves for long. He was soon back in the first team — but in the unusual role of sweeper.

"People think of me as a striker because I manufactured myself as that. They accepted it because of my size and I've always managed to get a few goals.

'Successful'

"But as a schoolboy, I played mostly in midfield and I had a successful spell there at Manchester United as well."

He would like to finish his career in a position where he can face the play, but accepts Bolton might need him as a striker on occasions.

He makes no excuses for Bolton's horrendous showing this season. "Basically, we've just not played or committed ourselves as well as the opposition.

"Manchester United are in a reverse situation where people say they are in a false position. But I don't believe that about them or us.

"In the end, after 42 League games, I think you finish where you deserve to."

Gowling is still enjoying his

WHY GOWLING ASKED TO BE DROPPED

football as much as ever but he may not see out next season with Bolton. He is thinking of quitting in the next 12 months in order to set himself up in an outside career.

"I've got a BA and an MA degree in economics which could help me get my foot on the first rung of the ladder in the wide and wonderful world outside football.

"Being a young man's world, I've got to give myself a chance by starting on a career before I'm much older. I'm 31 now and already, I'm certain to find myself competing against younger people

with more experience.

"I have to be careful that the desire to play on doesn't lead me into the position where I'm locked into the game and have no option but to go into coaching and then to make a bid for management."

He's not sure that he'd like that side of football and he has seen too many nice men get booted out of their jobs.

Gowling (left) narrowly misses for Bolton against Ipswich Town this season.

"I had a lot of admiration for Ian Greaves, who was sacked as Bolton's manager this year. But in this game you get conditioned to the fact that if you don't get results, you're going to get chopped in the back of the neck.

"In any other occupation it would be unthinkable to be dismissed because other people are not doing their jobs successfully, but in football the manager always carries the can and I for one think this is unfair.

"Football can be insular but in that respect, it prepares you well for outside life because it tends to exaggerate what can happen to you."

Gowling hopes to fix up something in business for himself shortly. But until the day he hangs up his boots, he intends to make the most of his football.

"It's always been important to me to enjoy the game and that will still be important, even though I know I won't be around much longer.

"Whether I play out my days in the first team or bringing along the kids in the reserves, I'm determined to enjoy it."



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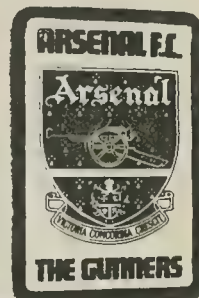
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'I'm not leaving United'

LOU Macari has committed himself to Manchester United for the rest of his playing career.

He says: "Obviously something could happen that would result in my leaving. But I can't envisage it and I couldn't play for any other English side because that would mean playing against United."

"I couldn't do that. Just like I can't play against my previous club Celtic. United played them in a testimonial game three years ago and I asked to be left out."

"We are supposed to have another testimonial against them soon and I shall ask to be left out of that, too."

It must be comforting to United fans — and manager Dave Sexton — to know Macari will be around as long as he's needed.

He's been doing another marvellous job for United as a striker this season, after being moved up from midfield.

The switch came about because of an injury that kept centre-forward Joe Jordan out for two months and Macari says: "I was very surprised when Dave Sexton asked me to play up-front."

"I hadn't played there for four or five years and I couldn't imagine playing there again. But Dave was

so sure I could do it that, in the end, he convinced me."

Macari has since convinced a few defenders that he is a top class striker. He's scored some vital goals to keep United in the hunt for the First Division title.

He's pleased to have Jordan back in the side alongside him, helping to take the pressure off.

"It's a physical position and if Joe can take all the stick, that's fine by me. Mind you, he's not just

in a few goals."

"The one thing that gave me some encouragement when the manager asked me to go up-front was the fact I've always liked going forward."

"I used to get into the box a lot even when I played in midfield and I like putting the ball in the net like anyone else."

Most players of 30 are looking for an easier role in midfield or at the back.

But Macari has always loved being in the thick of the action and he'll keep playing up-front until Sexton decides it's time to move back.

It doesn't worry him he's half the size of many of the central defenders he faces in Division One.

"Being small can be an advantage. Most of the defenders I face are big, hefty guys and they like playing against centre-forwards of the same type. Like Joe."

"They don't enjoy playing against small, quick players like me — but I love playing against them."

Lou Macari

a hard player, Joe's got a lot of skill, too."

It's ironic Macari should be making his name as a striker again because he couldn't make a success of the position when he first went to Old Trafford.

In everyone's mind, he had become accepted as a midfield player and he'd even come to believe that himself.

He's delighted to find he can still play in the forward line and bang

TWO MANCHESTER STARS DENY RUMOURS THEY'LL BE LEAVING



MICHAEL Robinson, Manchester City's £750,000 centre-forward, has had a tough first season in Division One.

But it's merely hardened him for future years in the top flight.

Robinson, 21, admits that the club have had a lot of pressure on them this season and at times, the

ped to cope with it, having been through it all before."

Robinson, who attracted City's attention with his goalscoring exploits at Preston last season, has been criticised for not scoring enough goals.

But he's had a tough time with injuries. "At the start of the season I was under a brain surgeon because of the severe headaches I

The biggest disappointment for Robinson and his City team-mates this season, though, was the F.A. Cup humiliation by Fourth Division Halifax.

"There's no excuse, really. We had the chances and should have beaten them comfortably."

Despite a golden run in the middle of the season, during which they beat Nottingham Forest and Manchester United, and drew at

'Happy to stay with City'

players haven't known how to handle it.

He says: "Because of all the money that's been spent and because Malcolm Allison is the

was having.

"I still get them sometimes now if I head the ball a lot in a game but they're not as bad as they were."

"After that I had a touch of jaun-

Michael Robinson

manager, some teams seemed to treat it as the Cup Final when we played them.

"They'd be really buzzing and when we found ourselves a goal down early on, we'd wonder what on earth was happening."

"We've been well beaten away from home because of that but next season we'll be better equip-

dice and was really ill for a couple of weeks. I couldn't even get up the stairs on my own."

You would have thought Robinson was due for an accident-free spell after that but in his first game back, he was in the wars again.

"I was in a collision with Russell Osman at Ipswich and ended up with a broken nose."

Arsenal, City have never been far from the bottom six.

They're not clear of relegation trouble but Robinson says: "I can't see us going down."

City should be good enough to avoid the drop and if they hold their First Division place, Robinson can see them surprising a lot of people next season.

"With all the changes in the side, it's no wonder we haven't been able to play consistently well."

"But we are also a young side and we have all learned a lot this season."

"I'm still confident of my ability to play First Division football and I'm looking forward to many years in the top flight with City."

TAKE A BREAK—IT'S Quiz Time

1. Former Chelsea striker Peter Osgood signed for which League of Ireland club recently?

2. How many players made their England B debuts in the recent friendly against Spain at Sunderland, which England won 1-0 with a late goal from Russell Osman?

3. Which Millwall striker was sent-off in their 2-1 defeat at Rotherham in a Third Division game in March?

4. Somerset and England cricket all-rounder Ian Botham made his Football League debut for which Fourth Division club recently?

5. How many League games were played in Scotland on Saturday, March 22nd?

6. Who was the only regular Liverpool first team player not involved in the recent series of international matches?

7. Kevin Hector, Alan Ball (below) or Trevor Whymark was placed on the transfer list by Vancouver Whitecaps despite helping them to



the NASL title last season?

8. Where will the Final of this season's European Cup on May 28th be played?

9. Manchester United recently appointed their first President of the club. Who is he?

10. Real Madrid turned down a £2 million offer for England star Laurie Cunningham from which leading Continental club?

11. England made two substitutions during their fine 2-0 win in Spain in a friendly international. Can you name the two subs and the two players replaced?

12. On the same night the seniors and B sides were winning, the



England Youths made it a hat-trick when they qualified for the Little World Cup Finals by beating Denmark's youngsters 4-1 at Coventry. Did Mark Hateley (Coventry), Tommy English (Coventry) or Terry Gibson (Spurs) score all four goals?

13. Scotland restored some pride when they beat Portugal 4-1 at Hampden Park in their final European Championship Group Two game. Did Andy Gray or Kenny Dalglish (below, left) score the first goal to set the Scots on the road to victory?

14. Northern Ireland travelled to Israel in a World Cup qualifying tie and drew 0-0, 1-1 or 2-2?

15. The Republic gained a tremendous 3-2 away victory in their qualifying group against which country?

ANSWERS

1. Waterford. 2. Four — Alan Devonshire (West Ham), Shaun Elliott (Sunderland), David Armstrong (Middlesbrough) and Garry Birtles (Nottingham Forest). 3. Chris Guthrie. 4. Scunthorpe. 5. One — Aberdeen v Morton. 6. Jimmy Case. 7. Hector. 8. Real Madrid's Bernabeu Stadium. 9. Sir Matt Busby. 10. Juventus. 11. Laurie Cunningham for Trevor Francis and Emlyn Hughes for Phil Neal. 12. Hateley. 13. Dalglish. 14. 0-0. 15. Cyprus.

NEXT WEEK...

Exclusive — Just how good is Trevor Francis? We answer this intriguing question — and Trevor gives his verdict.

The Alan Ball Story — Part One. Ups-and-downs of one of soccer's most controversial stars.

Second part of the European Championship Story ... and we talk to Greece skipper Mavros about his country's chances in Italy.

Why Bobby Shinton was afraid to play at Newcastle.

Coventry's new soccer import Roger van Gool and Ipswich's super Dutchman Frans Thijssen.

IN COLOUR...

Stoke City team group ... Focus on Kevin Reeves (Man. City) ... Steve Whitworth (Sunderland) ... David Price (Arsenal).



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ALBION'S POOR FORM

—WILE EXPLAINS

TO those fans who wonder why West Bromwich Albion should be struggling this term after finishing third last season, John Wile has a straightforward answer. "It just isn't the same team," he says.

Wile, a key-man in Albion's defence when the club won promotion four seasons ago, and also in the West Bromwich side which stayed consistently among the leaders a year ago, refuses to be pessimistic about the future at The Hawthorns. But he does offer an explanation for the in-and-out form of the club over the last few months.

Says John: "There have been five or six changes in the line-up compared to last season's side. This has been brought about because of injuries, plus the fact that we bought new players such as Gary Owen, Peter Barnes and John Deehan. We need time to attain the right blend and balance."

"I think that the man we miss most is Len Cantello. With him in the team, our midfield operated smoothly, setting up attacks, and defending well in front of the back-four when necessary. Since Len left, we haven't functioned so well, but we are working at developing our old understanding."

'Accomplish'

"What we could do with is a run of several matches without losing, and we did accomplish this for a while before being beaten by Aston Villa late in February. Yet we proved in that spell that the side could string some results together, which gave us the confidence to believe we could repeat the performance."

"An important factor at The Hawthorns is that of first-class team spirit. This is something that we've had for a long while and has stayed with us during the days when doubts could have crept in."

"Last season, Liverpool and Albion won more matches away from home than any other team in the First Division, yet this term we've done badly when travelling. Liverpool have remained consistent, though it should be

remembered that they field a side that seldom introduces more than one new player at a time — and he quite often has been carefully brought along in the reserves until he is ready to fit into the first team. With Albion, half of the side has had to be integrated in the past few months.

"But in spite of our difficulties, there have been encouraging signs. The introduction of Remi



Remi Moses, a key figure in West Bromwich Albion's midfield recently.



Moses into Len Cantello's old spot on the right side of midfield has ensured that there is no way that we will be faced with relegation worries. In fact, I'm looking for us to finish in the top eight, and I still don't rule out a place in Europe for Albion."

For West Bromwich to take part in European Cup competition is an overriding ambition with Wile. Albion's early exit from the U.E.F.A Cup this season still upsets the Albion centre-back.

John says: "It is essential for us to get back into Europe, because playing against the Continentals is

important in helping us to improve as a team. When we lost to Carl Zeiss Jena, it forcibly brought home to me how much we have to learn from that sort of opposition."

"Our approach to that tie was completely wrong — the ruthlessness and sheer professionalism of Carl Zeiss were qualities we lacked, and we must adopt them in order to compete successfully next time we go abroad."

"But first things first. We have to solve our playing problems at home before we are fit to make a return to Europe."

FOCUS ON PHIL BOYER SOUTHAMPTON



FULL NAME: Philip John Boyer
BIRTHPLACE: Nottingham
BIRTHDATE: January 25, 1950
HEIGHT: 5ft 8ins
WEIGHT: 11st 2lbs
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Derby, York, Bournemouth and Norwich
MARRIED: To Sonia
CHILDREN: None
CAR: Ford Capri
FAVOURITE NEWSPAPER: Daily Mirror
FAVOURITE PLAYER: Denis Law
MOST PROMISING TEAM-MATE: Steve Williams
FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM: Notts County
FOOTBALL HEROES OF CHILDHOOD: Denis Law and Joe Baker
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORT: Squash
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENTS: Paul Madeley, Colin Todd
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: Playing twice at Wembley
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Losing in the 1979 League Cup Final
FRIENDLIEST AWAY FANS: Liverpool and Everton

FAVOURITE FOOD + DRINK: Seafood, steak, champagne
MISCELLANEOUS LIKES AND DISLIKES: Sunbathing, swimming, long coach journeys
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT: The Caribbean Islands
FAVOURITE T.V. STAR, MALE AND FEMALE: Benny Hill, Joan Collins
FAVOURITE ACTIVITY ON DAY OFF: Going out for a meal with wife or doing some gardening
FAVOURITE SINGERS: 10cc, ELO
AFTER-MATCH ROUTINE: Going home to wind down and relax
BEST FRIEND: My wife Sonia
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: John Bond, who taught me all I know about the game
INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: Two England Under-23 and one full international cap
PERSONAL AMBITION: To be successful in everything I do
IF NOT A PLAYER, WHAT JOB WOULD YOU DO? Don't know
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? The Queen

SHOOT!